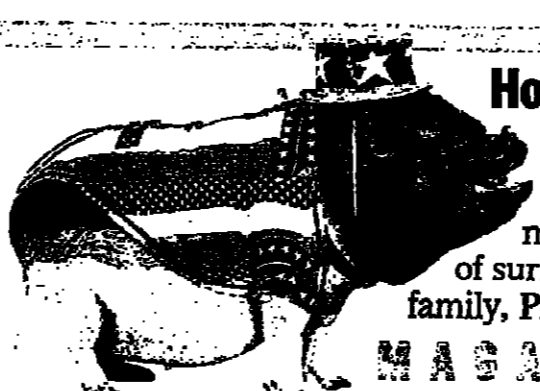




Best of the holiday TV and radio in our seven-day guide

WEEKEND MONEY
Your guide to the great Easter house hunt
PAGE 27



Hollywood pets
America's new breed of surrogate family, PAGE 14



FILM VIDEOS AT £2 EACH
Marilyn Monroe in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Bus Stop* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*
DETAILS, PAGE 37

Blood samples to be analysed again

Thousands face anxious wait for Aids check

By RUSSELL JENKINS, ADAM FRESCO AND RICHARD THOMSON

TENS of thousands of people across Europe are facing an anxious wait to learn if they are at risk of Aids after a widely used HIV test was found to be flawed.

Up to 60,000 blood samples taken in Britain since last September may have to be analysed again, and further checks are also being made in Germany, France, Holland, Italy and Scandinavia. In Germany, health officials have ordered spot checks at bloodbanks as the test was used to screen blood donors.

About two million of the testing kits were sold before Abbott Laboratories of Chicago withdrew them from the market last month after scientists in Portsmouth and Sweden found that they were producing false negative results. The test — "IMx HIV-1/HIV 3rd Generation Plus" — has not been licensed in America.

Yesterday, as hospitals began rechecking samples, hundreds of people who had been told that they were HIV negative, were told that they were HIV positive. The charities, meanwhile, complained that they had been left in the dark by the Health Department and then forced to cope with the ensuing panic over a holiday weekend.

The Abbott kit is only one of several methods of testing for HIV and it is believed to have been used on about 5,000 people and only a tiny percentage is likely to be HIV positive. But since patients are not told which test they are using, many thousands more samples will have to be checked.

In Germany, the problem is most

acute because 650,000 of the kits have been sold there and the test was used to screen blood donors. It is also commonly used in Denmark, Sweden and Holland, where it is understood that 50,000 samples will have to be re-analysed. The Italian health ministry has ordered the seizure of tests from 500 centres where it has been available since October.

Flaws in the Abbott kit were first noticed in Sweden when an industrial dispute led to double testing of some samples, which then produced conflicting results. And in Portsmouth, scientists found a patient who definitely had Aids was testing negative.

The Public Health Laboratory Service said: "We found in our Portsmouth lab a result that did not fit. It was looked at by the people there and then by others at the central laboratory in London. It was a good team effort. All the results were then sent to the company."

The fault was identified more than a month ago and Abbott's German laboratories notified last week. The product was withdrawn on March 25 and the company informed the Health Department last Friday. At least nine false negatives have now been confirmed: three in Britain, four in Germany and two in France.

The test produces the false reading when the blood contains especially high levels of the human immunodeficiency virus that causes Aids. Infected blood with more common levels of HIV is believed to produce accurate readings. Dr. Graham Winyard, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday: "The test involved is

only one of a number used by the NHS and the circumstances in which it gives this false negative are very unusual."

The Health Department also emphasised that the system had not been used for blood donations and insisted that there was no reason to doubt the result of any test before last September or the vast majority of HIV tests carried out since then.

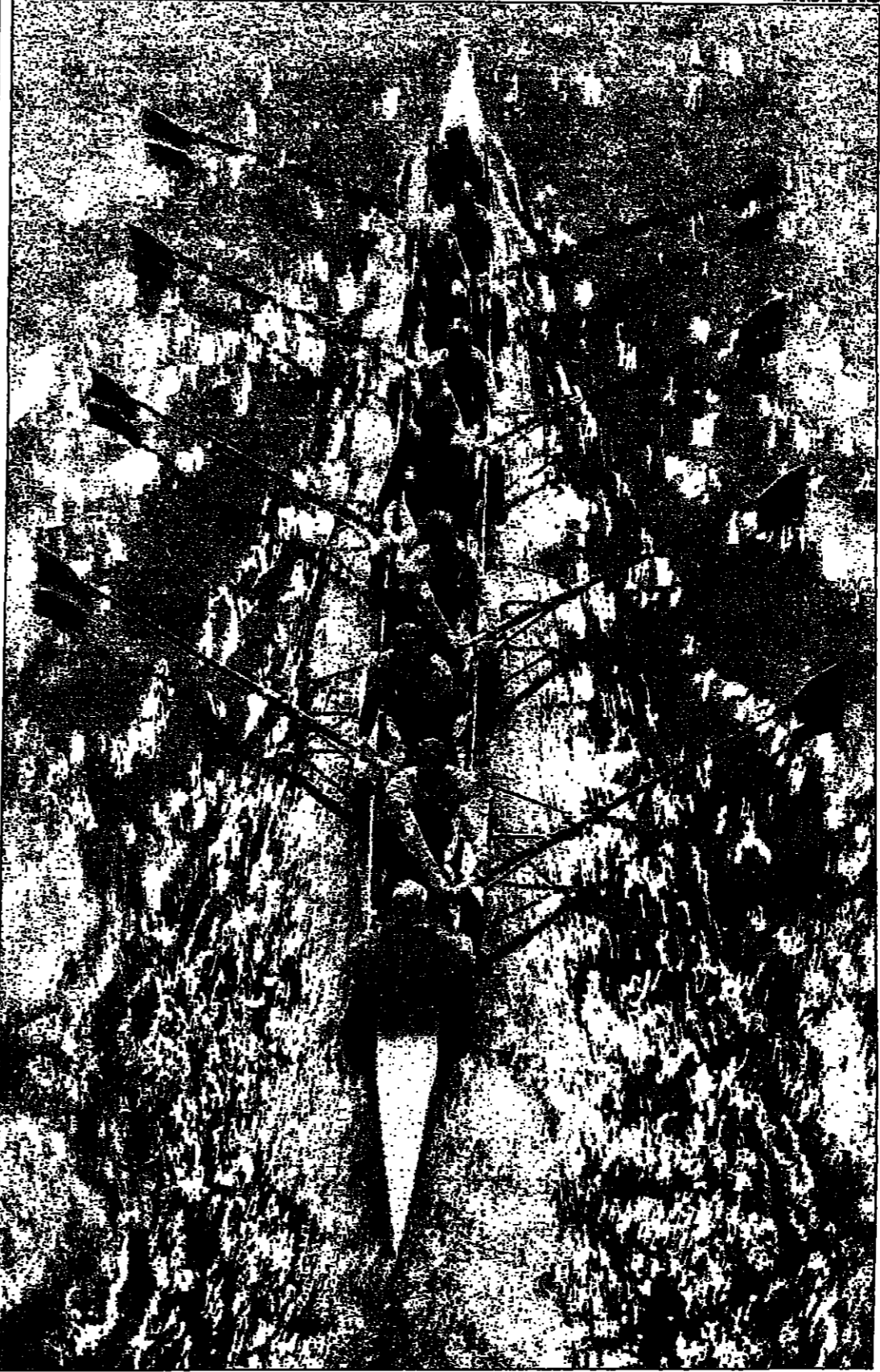
But Nicholas Partridge of the Terence Higgins Trust Aids charity said: "The cost is going to be in personal distress. Clearly a lot of people go for testing as a couple to reassure themselves and then stop using condoms. If one of these people has the virus, there is a possibility that they will unknowingly infect their loved one. That is the real human tragedy that could unfold."

Susie Parsons, of the London Lighthouse, criticised the Health Department for failing to make any announcement, even though it had known of the problem for some days. "We have been trying to get through all morning, but their lines have been blocked," she said.

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, also attacked the department, saying: "It is unfortunate that it did not notify people as soon as they got the information rather than wait for a public holiday."

But Dr Winyard said: "We were planning to make the situation public next week when more detailed arrangements, including the arrangements which local clinics will need to have, could all have been put into place."

Abbott test, page 2



The Cambridge crew on their last practice run yesterday before today's Boat Race

Helmets off for fans of Bertie Wooster

By OLIVER AUGUST

Police lining the Thames today for this year's Boat Race will be wearing peaked caps for the first time to discourage exuberant on-lookers from following the example of Bertie Wooster and snatching helmets for a lark.

After a growing number of Drones Club-style pranks over recent years which have seen headgear floating away down the river, officers demanded a change. They said their dignity was in jeopardy.

A spokesman for Wandsworth police, which will have 250 officers on duty along the river, said: "Special arrangements have been made. The American-style flat caps that replaced the traditional bobbies' helmets are much more difficult to knock off."

PC Tim Maddox said: "Drunken toffs come from behind you when it is very crowded after the race and one of them knocks the helmet off. Someone else then picks it up and runs away with it."

The tradition was immortalised in P.G. Wodehouse's *Carry on, Jeeves*. Egged on by Bertie Wooster, his friend Oliver Sipperley, editor of the *Majfair Gazette*, beats up a police officer to get his helmet. He is promptly sentenced to "thirty days in the Second Division without the option of a fine."

Admitting his complicity, Wooster says: "It was I who, in a moment of mistaken kindness, wishing only to cheer him up and give him something to occupy his mind, recommended him to pinch that policeman's helmet."

The incident, recalled again in later Wooster books, has inspired an outing to the Boat Race by the Wodehouse Society. "No helmet is safe," Richard Morris, the society's chairman said. "We shall be taking the liberty of relieving a few of the gentlemen in blue of their prized headgear."

The society's contingent will gather at a pub near Hammer-smith Bridge from where they will co-ordinate their raids.

David Miller and Race preview, page 44

Cunard abandons crash ship cruise

By ANDREW PIERCE

BRITISH passengers on a Cunard world cruise were flying home today after their luxury liner struck the coral reef and was towed into an Egyptian port.

The *Royal Viking Sun* is anchored at Sharm el Sheikh, on the Red Sea. The 560 passengers, including 54 Britons, were taken on shore by catamaran. No one was injured.

Cunard has admitted that no local pilot was on board the vessel when the accident happened at 9.15pm on Thursday in the Tiran Straits.

Bill Spears, the director of public relations, said: "It was not necessary. The waterway was not deemed tricky

enough. It is Cunard policy and the law to have experienced crew on the bridge. We have launched an inquiry to find out what went wrong."

Once the scale of the damage was known — two engine rooms were flooded — Cunard called off the 116-day cruise of 36 ports which began on January 6 and was due to end on April 29 in Florida.

Passengers were assembled on deck wearing life-jackets. They watched the lifeboats swing out over the water, but were brought back on board after an hour when the vessel's list was stabilised.

One hundred and twenty passengers on the ship had been aboard Cunard's *MV Sagaford* which ran aground off the Philippines in February. They were completing their round-the-world voyage on the *Royal Viking Sun*.

Compensation bill, page 7

Woolwich chief tells of sadness

Peter Robinson, the ousted Woolwich Building Society chief executive, has spoken out about his dismissal, saying that he believes himself to be the victim of a concerted smear campaign. He says that he was surprised and saddened by events after what he described as an unblemished 33-year career with the society.

Page 2

Hendrix suicide

Monika Danneman, who pledged her life to the memory of Jimi Hendrix, has killed herself 48 hours after losing a High Court case brought by another of the guitarist's former lovers. She was found in a flame-filled car.

Page 3

House-hunt time

Estate agents are expecting the holiday weekend to be their busiest since the housing market recession began seven years ago. Some experts are predicting that house prices will rise by 5 per cent this year.

Page 6

NUT's moderates fail to stop Shephard protest

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SECURITY was tightened at the National Union of Teachers' conference yesterday after protesters tried in vain to stop Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, from speaking to delegates in Cardiff today.

She will be the first minister to address the NUT since 1980, and the protests threaten to destroy attempts by moderates to rid the union of its militant image. They fear a repetition of last year's disorder when David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, arrived to address a fringe meeting. He will address this year's conference tomorrow and Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, will do so on Monday.

Fran Crowhurst, the Lewisham teacher, seen by millions on television yelling slogans at Mr Blunkett, is again among those represent-

ing her branch. Yesterday members of the Socialist Workers Party, supporters of which led that disturbance, argued for a walkout.

The left-wingers, who were meeting last night to discuss tactics, have targeted Mrs Shephard this year to



Regan: wants to restrict protest to a ticking off

demonstrate against government policies. The Secretary of State will be introduced by Carole Regan, the union's president and a member of the leading left-wing grouping.

A teacher in Tower Hamlets, east London, she promised the conference that she would give Mrs Shephard a public "ticking off" but appealed to militants not to disrupt the speech, saying she favoured a silent protest.

Doug McAvoy, NUT general secretary, said Mrs Shephard could not expect a "tumultuous welcome" because the union opposed many government policies. He added: "I hope she will be received properly and certainly there will be no repeat of the situation when David Blunkett arrived last year."

Delegates will not be allowed to question her after the 20-minute speech.

Oh, to be in-sulated, now that April's here

By NIGEL HAWKES

SPRING is having a shocking start this year. It has been dull; it has been cold; daffodils have been reluctant to put in an appearance. But it is the exceptionally dry air that has been truly shocking.

On Thursday, the relative humidity of air in London fell

to 16 per cent, the second-lowest figure recorded, with quite painful results. Dry air allows static electricity to build up on the body and clothing, causing a brief shock when it is discharged by touching a door handle or filing cabinet.

The air in Britain is seldom dry enough for this to be a big problem, but this week a

combination of dry air flowing in from the Continent and clear skies has sent humidity levels plunging and by Thursday afternoon, they were close to the record 11 per cent reached in March 1965. "It was an exceptionally good day for drying washing," the London Weather Centre said.

Static electricity can be a

serious hazard, causing mysterious fires and explosions, and even the slight shocks it causes can prove more than a minor irritation. Fraserburgh Academy in Scotland was closed by the headmaster when pupils complained of electric shocks from light switches last year. All 1,300 pupils and 100 staff were

moved out, but the shocks continued after the power was turned off. The culprit was static caused by low humidity.

Yesterday, however, humidity in London had returned to 35 per cent, and with cloud and rain expected, it is unlikely to dip again soon.

Forecast, page 22

Hunting for Perfection~

Ah-ha!

MORLAND "OLD SPECKLED HEN" Strong Pale Ale

A finely balanced, deliciously smooth ale, with a subtle blend of flavours. A fitting reward for all who pursue perfection.

Catch one at your local.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

770140 046466

WEATHER	22	LETTERS	19	BUSINESS NEWS	23-25	GARDENING: WEEKEND	4
CROSSWORD	22	OBITUARIES	21	WEEKEND MONEY	27-35	BOOKS: WEEKEND	12-13
COURT & SOCIAL	20	SIMON JENKINS	18	SPORT	36-44	TRAVEL: WEEKEND	15-19

THE TIMES
ON MONDAY13 PAGES
OF SPORT

Oliver Holt reports from
Buenos Aires on the
Argentine Grand Prix

Kevin McCarra at
Hampden Park on
Celtic v Rangers

HOW TO BE A GREAT
GRANDMOTHER

by Elizabeth Longford



PLUS: MATTHEW PARRIS,
COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

HIV test was designed to miss no cases

THE Aids virus test that produced false results was introduced by the American company Abbott last year under the name IMx HIV-1/HIV-2 3rd Generation. It is the latest version of a test that has proved successful since it was first manufactured more than ten years ago.

Like other HIV tests, it works by detecting the presence in the blood of antibodies to HIV, which causes Aids. The presence of such antibodies means the immune system has responded to HIV-infection by mounting an attack.

The technique involved is called immunoassay and exploits the fact that, as part of the process of destroying it, the

■ While thousands of people across Europe wait to find if they are at risk of contracting Aids, Nigel Hawkes explains how the HIV test they took went wrong

antibody binds to HIV. The test kits contain a disabled version of HIV. When a sample of blood is added, any antibodies present bind to it. The presence of virus-antibody compounds can be detected by adding chemicals and watching for a colour change.

Tests like these, which cost about £1 each, are designed to be so sensitive that they miss no cases. If they wrongly

identify as positive samples that are not, it is less important because all positive results are checked using a more sensitive test before the patient is told.

False negatives are more serious, giving those tested an unjustified sense of security and — if used for blood donations — allowing HIV infection to spread to blood recipients. That does not arise in Britain because the Abbott

test was not used by the Blood Transfusion Service.

It is not known how many erroneous results have been produced but the number could be very small. According to Erik Nordenfält, head of the Swedish Infectious Diseases Prevention Unit, the test falls when the amounts of virus in the body are high.

"What is wrong with the test is that it can mistakenly show negative when there are large concentrations of HIV antibodies in the blood," he said. "The test can show the blood is free from HIV if a person has been infected for a long time."

Abbott, which says it has been notified of four false results from 2.5 million tests,

says it does not know what went wrong with the kits and it is investigating. However it is unrealistic to expect such tests to be completely accurate.

A much greater problem with all antibody tests is that they can test positive only if antibodies are already circulating, and for the first few weeks after infection that is not the case. There is therefore a period, estimated at 11 to 22 days, when no antibodies can be detected but the infection is present. To close this "window" a new test is to be introduced into the US to test donated blood for the presence of HIV itself, not the antibodies against it.

This will be enormously

expensive — as much as \$10 million for every contaminated sample it detects. There are no plans to introduce such antigen testing in Britain, which anyway has a much lower level of HIV infection than the US.

There are at least four HIV-antibody test kits available from manufacturers. In the 1980s the Public Health Laboratory Service tested rival kits from the US companies Abbott, Liton, and Electro-nucleonics (marketed by the Dutch company Organon) as well as from the British company Wellcome (now part of Glaxo).

Thousands wait, page 1

Woolwich boss
hits back at
'smear stories'

By ROBERT MILLER

PETER ROBINSON, the ousted chief executive of the Woolwich, hit back yesterday at what he said was a concerted smear campaign against him.

He said he had been advised by his solicitors not to mount a point-by-point rebuttal of specific allegations over abuses concerning expenses and other building society perks. The allegations have included use of building society gardeners, electricians and decorators for work on his home in Brasted, Kent, possibly over a longer period than the initial three months alluded to by the society in its official announcement of his departure.

Mr Robinson said yesterday: "I am surprised and a good deal saddened at what I can only see is a concerted smear campaign. My reaction to all this is that I have a 33-year unblemished record of service with the Woolwich culminating in this appointment. I was the same person at the start of my appointment as I was three months later, so what has happened over the three months?"

He said he had received a call from a friend in the middle of his holiday in the Caribbean to warn him that something

was afoot. On his return to Britain Mr Robinson's usual driver handed him a letter summoning him to a meeting with senior society executives later the same day.

At the meeting Mr Robinson was told that there had been an "irreparable breakdown of confidence" in him. Mr Robinson said that he would rebut all the allegations against him. He said that he had been surprised by the strength of media interest in his departure and that his 39-year-old mother had been harassed by reporters.

Mr Robinson said that he could not imagine what had led to the build up of boardroom opposition against him. He said that he could only speculate that he had been given "some of the more difficult jobs to do" such as reorganising and in some cases closing down businesses within the Woolwich.

He suggested that perhaps there was "a good deal of stored up resentment" against him. Mr Robinson is still living away from his mock-tudor Kent home where the family has lived since 1983. It has a gymnasium built in a hacienda style with mirrored walls, a swimming pool and a tennis court.



Robinson: denies any wrongdoing

Labour jobs plan
for young blacks

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is to target young black unemployed people with job creation schemes as part of a programme to curb racial tension in inner cities. Local authorities and private firms will be able to bid for money specifically for such schemes.

The proposals are being drawn up by Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, after growing concern about the high level of black unemployment in cities which is often double that for whites.

Last year, the level of unemployment in inner London boroughs was 15.9 per cent. Unemployment among white people was 12.5 per cent and 29.3 per cent for black people. Similar differences were found in the East Midlands

where 7.1 per cent of whites were jobless compared to 17.2 per cent of blacks and Asians.

The money would be made available through the existing Single Regeneration Budget under which councils can bid for cash for projects. Party sources said money earmarked for jobless blacks would be found from existing resources with schemes handled jointly by the Department of Environment, the Department of Education and Employment and Home Office.

Labour last night denied it was planning to impose Alan Howarth, the former Conservative MP, on the Yorkshire mining constituency of Wentworth against strong local opposition.

Belgium lifts ban
on British calves

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS AND OLIVER AUGUST

THERE was welcome news for beef farmers last night when Belgium lifted a ban on the sale of 27,000 British-born veal calves.

Karel Pinxten, the Agriculture Minister, told farmers and veal producers in Brussels that the calves, sold to Belgium earlier this year to be fattened up, were safe to eat and could be sold internally.

He said: "The British calves in Belgium are all under six months old so they were never fed with meal made from animals."

In Britain, beef sales and prices have returned to normal levels, supermarkets abandoning cut-price offers after an upsurge in demand.

A spokesman for Asda said:

"Consumer confidence has returned. We are taking the same amount of money now as at this time last year."

Michael Bates at Morrison's said: "Sales have picked up again and we feel encouraged by the response of our customers."

The return of consumer confidence caught some beef retailers unawares. "It is surprising how quickly people forget. Sales are back to normal," a meat salesman at Harrods said.

In France, a case of CJD comparable to those that sparked the crisis in Britain has been reported, a senior health official said. It involved a 29-year-old man in Lyon who died in January.

Bumper-to-bumper
holiday weekend

Thousands of motorists hoping to take advantage of the spring sunshine spent most of yesterday roasting in their cars. Traffic slowed to a crawl on roads out of cities and towards coastal resorts.

An RAC spokeswoman said: "The major problem areas are the M4 approaching the Severn Bridge towards Wales, the M5 to the South West, the A30 in Devon and routes to northern resorts. Traffic was also at a virtual standstill on the M40, M1 and M4 leaving London."

Two children and their father were killed in a crash near Horsham, West Sussex, on a main holiday route to the coast, when a van veered across the road and hit their car.

Clarke's hopes for No 10

Kenneth Clarke has admitted that he retains ambitions to become Prime Minister. The Chancellor had infuriated the Tory Right by resisting pressure to agree to a referendum on a single currency, and has rivals on the Centre-Left. But when asked by *The Birmingham Post* if he had given up hopes of the job, he said: "I have not given up hope. All politicians aspire to as senior an office as they can."

Girl survives live rail

Twelve-year-old Jacquelynne Muft, right, survived a fall down an embankment on to a 940-volt live rail when she chased her puppy across a railway line in Portsmouth. She was thrown 10ft into the air but escaped with minor burns, bruises and singed hair. Speaking from her hospital bed in Portsmouth Jacquelynne, from Gosport, Hampshire, said: "I wondered if I was ever going to land."



Soldiers to appeal

The three soldiers jailed for life in Cyprus for killing a Danish tour guide are to appeal against their convictions and sentences. Lawyers for Alan Ford, 27, Justin Fowler, 28, and Jeffrey Pernel, 24, who were found guilty of conspiracy to rape, abduction and manslaughter, claim the evidence was flawed and the sentences were too harsh.

Victory over cancer

Karen Farnaby, right, of Darlington, who won the Zetland Hunt steeplechase in North Yorkshire on her 12-year-old horse Vinny, had completed a series of operations for non-Hodgkins lymphoma only three weeks earlier. Miss Farnaby, 25, said of the race: "It was gruelling and only the horse was keeping me going at the end. But now I intend to hold on to this cup and win again next year."



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Virtual Shop

IA1 TM6

this week's special: INCOME BONDS

Increase
your monthly
spending
power and
still keep your
capital safe

buyer's guide

A monthly income with complete security
Invest £2,000 or more in Income Bonds and get a monthly income deposited straight into your bank, building society, or National Savings Investment Account. We currently pay 6.25% pa interest for investments up to £25,000 and 6.5% pa for investments of £25,000 or more. These rates are variable. But they're also paid gross. So non-taxpayers get to keep all the interest while taxpayers simply declare it on their tax return and pay the tax when it is due. And, remember your capital is completely protected.

To buy off the page, simply turn to 'Weekend Money' for an application form. There will be information on investments and seasonal opportunities from National Savings in this space every week. For a copy of the full terms and conditions of today's offer, or for a free copy of our Virtual Shop Guide, covering all National Savings' unique investment opportunities, you can call us free anytime on 0500 500 000

key plus points

Invest from £2,000 up to £250,000

Interest paid monthly straight into your bank, building society, or National Savings Investment Account

Capital fully protected

Easy to buy, repayments from 5 April

6.25% pa interest guaranteed for 12 months

Buy up to £250,000 in one go

SALES DESK

UNIQUE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM HM TREASURY

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Victim of a legend, 26 years on Hendrix's sad love kills herself after losing court case

By RICHARD DUCE

A GIRLFRIEND who pledged her life to the memory of Jimi Hendrix killed herself yesterday, only 48 hours after losing a costly High Court case with another ex-lover of the rock guitarist. Monika Danneman was found dead in her fume-filled Mercedes at her thatched cottage in Seaford, East Sussex, which she had turned into a shrine to the star.

Hendrix was living with Miss Danneman in London when he died in 1970, and in a recent interview she said: "Jimi gave me a heavy burden. I had to promise that if he died, I'd spread his message. It is a lonely life. But if I'd not met Jimi, my life would have been very ordinary."

She had been involved in a long controversy over the circumstances of Hendrix's death and his relationship with the other woman, Kathy Etchingham. On Wednesday, Miss Danneman, 50, an artist, was held to be in contempt for breaching an injunction not to repeat allegations that Miss Etchingham, 49, was an "inveterate liar" about her life with Hendrix. She was liable for £30,000 costs.

Last night Miss Etchingham said at her home near Farnham, Hampshire: "I



Etchingham said she had to make a stand

am greatly saddened that it should have to end like this. There was never any personal ill-will as far as I was concerned. But certain things happened over the last five years over which I had to take a legal stand. I feel very sorry for her family over this dreadful news."

In the past Miss Etchingham, who inspired the Hendrix song *Foxy Lady*, had questioned whether Miss Danneman could have done more to save Hendrix before he choked to death on his own vomit in September 1970, aged 27. Continued speculation

about the circumstances of the death led Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, to reopen the file in 1994 and consider whether he died, as the official version said, in an ambulance on his way to hospital, or lain dead in Miss Danneman's Notting Hill flat for hours before help was summoned. The investigation cleared her of suggestions that she delayed calling for help.

The two women cut contrasting figures in the High Court this week. Miss Etchingham, now married to a doctor, appeared to be in control. Miss Danneman, an East German-born former ice-skater, appeared sad and isolated as she scribbled endless notes for her lawyers.

She continued to paint pictures of Hendrix up until her death. The court was told that she had been forced to sell some of her paintings to support herself, and was also in ill-health. In her recent interview, she said: "I never got out and socialise. I'm just working on my art."

Miss Danneman had earlier lost a libel action and was ordered to pay £1,000 damages and costs after alleging that Miss Etchingham "would cheat and lie for money" and stole the guitarist's belongings from his flat while he was



Danneman: endured a lonely life, but promised to spread Hendrix's message

away on tour. The claims resurfaced in 1995 when Miss Danneman published *The Inner World of Jimi Hendrix*, to coincide with the anniversary of his death. Holding her in contempt on Wednesday, Mr Justice French said no public interest would be served by jailing her or imposing a

financial penalty. Police were called to her home at 9.40am yesterday after her mother Rosemarie raised the alarm. At the cottage, a male relative said: "She was very upset by the court case this week. She did not leave a note. Nobody seems to know what happened."

A neighbour said: "I am really shocked to hear what has happened. I saw her yesterday. She was doing the gardening."

A police spokesman said: "It is my understanding that the victim was overcome by fumes. We are treating it as a suicide."

Irish policeman reprieved after drunken row with minister

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN AGGRIEVED Irish policeman, ordered home from United Nations peacekeeping duties in Cyprus after complaining to his visiting Defence Minister about police pay, exacted his revenge yesterday.

A lawyer acting for Police Officer Michael Fitzpatrick claimed in the High Court in Dublin that Sean Barrett, the minister, was drunk during their heated exchange. At an unprecedented Good Friday hearing Mr Fitzpatrick, 31, was awarded an injunction restraining the police from sending him home after Mr Barrett's visit to the Irish peacekeepers in Cyprus last month.

As Mr Barrett mingled with officers at the UN Hibernian Club in Nicosia, Mr Fitzpatrick tackled him about allowances paid to policemen serving overseas. During their argument he told Mr Barrett, a leading member of the governing Fine Gael party, that the problem would be sorted out when the Opposition, Fianna Fail, returned to power.

Police Officer John Scanlon, who witnessed the fracas, gave a graphic account of the exchange. In a statement read out to the court by Pat O'Donnell, counsel for Mr Fitzpatrick, he said that both

his colleague and the minister were drunk.

"The minister... became very irate and said PO Fitzpatrick was a disgrace. Both PO Fitzpatrick and the minister had consumed a lot of alcohol and both were drunk. The minister was shaking and seemed to be very upset. He then said 'PO Fitzpatrick would go no further.'"

Mr Fitzpatrick was ordered to leave the room by army officers. As he left he apologised to the minister. His superiors, who were horrified by his impertinence, also apologised to the minister the next day.

After an investigation it was decided that Mr Fitzpatrick would be sent home. He was due to return today.

However, Mr Justice Carney gave him leave to apply to the court to challenge the decision. The judge said he was satisfied that a strong prima facie case had been made that the punishment was disproportionate.

Mr Barrett insisted on his return to Ireland that he was not involved in the decision to send Mr Fitzpatrick home. "I accepted the apology, shook hands and was happy to forget about it," he said. He did not want to intervene because the matter was an internal one for the police.

Sir Denis tells of love for a flying lady

By ANDREW PIERCE

SIR DENIS THATCHER has disclosed one of his greatest joys at leaving 10 Downing Street. He was allowed to buy a second Rolls-Royce.

The consort of the former Prime Minister, who is the subject of a biography by his daughter, Carol, published next week, was forced to give up his beloved Rolls soon after they moved into "Ten". He had no choice. His wife issued the order.

In a rare interview, Sir Denis has disclosed to *The Times*: "I had one before we moved into Ten. But when we got there Margaret said: 'It is a bit much. Get rid of it. It's not good for the image.'"

Reluctantly, Sir Denis acquiesced. He bought a run-around Ford, which sat uncomfortably next to the Prime Minister's chauffeur-driven Daimler during the Downing Street years. "It was British of course," said Sir Denis. "Reliable as clockwork."

Carol's biography, *Below the Parapet*, published by HarperCollins, claims that her father was deliberately projected as a gin-and-tonic swilling jester to deflect attention from his real persona: as a highly successful multi-



Sir Denis: failing sight stopped him driving

millionaire businessman. But Sir Denis was only biding his time.

"When we left Ten I said, 'Get me another Rolls.' Lady Thatcher never demurred this time. Asked whether being reunited with a Rolls was one of the few virtues of leaving Downing Street, Sir Denis replied: 'Who said one of the few?'"

The pleasure was short-lived. Sir Denis, 80, who has already been forced to abandon his first love, golf, because of arthritis and back pains, has now had to give up a Rolls for the second time. For good. "Damned eyesight. It's failing. But don't say I am going blind," he said.

He has since sold the car. His failing sight has also disrupted another of his pastimes. "If I go to an England Test match now I can't see the ball. Mind you, nor can the English batsmen."

Car 96, page 10

Yachting couple freed in Eritrea

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A BRITISH couple arrested by the Eritrean navy when their yacht strayed into a restricted zone were freed yesterday after 18 days' house arrest.

Peter Billing, 64, and his wife, Shirley, 61, were released from an hotel in the capital, Asmara. They were taken from their 35ft ketch *Clypeus* at gunpoint on March 19, the thirteenth anniversary of the start of their round-the-world voyage.

Their son Noel, 37, from Wokingham, Berkshire, was told of their release in a telephone call from Dr Rod Hicks, the honorary consul. "He said, 'The good news is they have just been released. They are now trying to get back to the boat, but it will take a few days. However they are free people.'"

Peter Billing, speaking later from Dr Hicks's home in Asmara, said he felt a sense of "tremendous relief" at being released. "We have no complaint against any Eritrean. They have been more than polite at all times and the delay was merely due to the wheels of diplomacy turning."

The couple will fly to the coast on Tuesday.

A French couple detained with them remained under house arrest last night.



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee, USA.

WHAT LITTLE TRAFFIC there is in Lynchburg, Tennessee can be brought to a standstill by a Mallard hen.

This one came from over by our limestone cave spring, where Jack Daniel discovered water so right for whiskey making (it's iron-free), he built his distillery alongside. Of course, that meant sharing the property with a few ducks. But to have a source of water this treasured, we've always been glad to stop for friends who value it as much as we do.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Georgian home of Prince's polo friends gutted by fire

By RICHARD DUCE

POLO-PLAYING friends and neighbours of the Prince of Wales cut short their skiing holiday yesterday after learning that their Georgian home had been destroyed by fire.

Captain Simon Tomlinson, 52, and his wife Claire, 50, Britain's leading woman polo player, were told yesterday about the fire at Down Farm, near the Prince's Highgrove estate at Tetbury, Gloucestershire, while they were in Austria with the youngest of their three children, Mark, 13. Down Farm is home to the recently revived Beaufort Polo Club.

Nine fire crews from six towns fought for more than

four hours early yesterday to bring the fire under control after it was reported by a passing motorist. Flames up to 50ft could be seen seven miles away. Valuable paintings and furniture were destroyed at the house, which was valued at £750,000.

Greg French, a spokesman for the Tomlinson's estate, said: "The place is in a real mess. Many neighbours have been very helpful and supportive. They have spent the day helping to remove stuff and sort things out. It has been a tremendous effort, but it is going to take some time before we can evaluate the full extent of the fire."

Station Officer Simon McMillan, of Gloucestershire

Fire Service, said: "When we arrived, the house was already well alight. The fire had engulfed the roof and flames could be seen from as far away as Nailsworth. Officers with breathing apparatus were sent into the house but had to be withdrawn soon afterwards for their own safety because of the intensity of the fire and severe structural damage."

Firemen and farm staff were on standby to evacuate polo ponies from adjoining stables, but the fire was contained to the main house.

Inspector David Brooks said: "We sent officers to the scene to carry out tests to establish the cause, but at this stage it looks like nothing more than an accident."



Simon Tomlinson, and the blackened shell of Down Farm yesterday



Elvis fans and pigeon fanciers bereft as W H Smith spring-clean sweeps out niche titles

Not only is the King dead: now his shelf life is finished too

BY ANDREW PIERCE

HUNDREDS of obscure magazines, bought by devotees of everything from pigeons to Elvis Presley in his prime, are facing extinction after being swept from High Street shelves.

W H Smith is dropping 350 specialist publications, the sales of some of which have not wavered in decades, to make more room on its shelves for mass-circulation magazines. Left-wing publications such as *Red Pepper* and *Tribune* and the more specialised *Dr Who Poster Magazine*, *Elvis Monthly*, the Pamela Anderson fanzine and *Epicurean Life*, are all threatened by the move.

Tribune, one of the few unresurrected voices of the Left, is the most high profile victim of the axe. Salt has been rubbed in the wound for the chief critic of any future Labour Government by the fact that W H Smith is still selling the latest edition of *Mein Kampf*, Hitler's masterpiece for the Third Reich.

Mark Seddon, the *Tribune* editor, who has enlisted 60 Labour MPs for his campaign to adapt European legislation, said: "There is no room for us but plenty of space in 70 W H Smith branches for Hitler. It says everything."

"We will have to rely more heavily on subscriptions. But



The fancier's favourite: *Racing Pigeon Pictorial*

it would be a tragedy if the long-established voice of the Left was snuffed out because of retail censorship."

Word had failed to reach Rick Osman, the editor of *Racing Pigeon Pictorial*, that his 25-year-old publication was included. "Maybe they should have sent me a message by racing pigeon," said Mr Osman, whose great-grandfather founded *Racing Pigeon Weekly* in 1898. The £1.50 monthly has a circulation of 7,500.

Mr Osman, 45, whose 32 pigeons share a loft with his children's two bicycles, said: "We had a long and glorious association with the shelves of W H Smith but we will survive. We have moved on from the cloth cap and Andy Capp

readership." Indeed, last year the world of pigeon fancying was at the centre of an illicit drug-taking scandal, a habit more associated with the more glamorous worlds of football and athletics. *Racing Pigeon Pictorial* was at the fore of the campaign to keep British pigeons drug-free. "It was a very big story," said Mr Osman.

Elvis Presley fans, already in permanent mourning over the death of their hero, are dismayed by the ban on *Elvis Monthly*. They fear the charms of the king of rock and roll will be denied to a new generation. Alan Armes, 42, deputy editor of *Elvis Monthly*, said: "We have been sold in W H Smith for 35 years. We were planning a bumper sales drive to mark the 20th anniversary next year of the death of the King."

Despite Elvis's long period of inactivity, the magazine still runs to at least 50 pages each month. The cover always boasts a photograph of Elvis in his prime. "He was never fat or bloated. That was media hype," said Mr Armes, who runs the publication from a house in Leicester.

"We never report latest sightings, or dress up as Elvis. That is frivolous. We run regular pilgrimages to Graceland, where we can feel his presence. The legend of Elvis lives. So will we, and longer than Cliff Richard." He



Alan Armes in his office at *Elvis Monthly*. "Genuine fans will still buy it. It's what Elvis would have wanted"

rejected the notion that his readers were living in the past. "Elvis lives on in our lives. But we are realistic. We love Elvis but we do not think we are Elvis. We know he is dead. I am sure genuine fans will keep buying our magazine. It's what he would want."

The Yorkshire-based *Top Hats & Veils* has already been suspended. The circulation of

the glossy, 48-page wedding quarterly was 7,000 and rising. Lynn Stocks, the sales supervisor, said: "All the other wedding publications are Home Counties and south-east-based. It may not sound glamorous but we do have big weddings in Humberside."

Time may also be running out for *International Wristwatch*, whose circulation

reached 20,000 during the six years it has been in existence. The publication is a bible for watch collectors. Michael Balfour, contributing editor, who owns 29 watches, said: "Some people say minority interest but we say niche market. We have a sister title in Chinese."

Other publications affected by the ban include the Methodist Recorder, Noddy Spe-

cial, Country Music Round-up, Taekwondo & Korean Combat Arts and Thomas & Thomas Engine Collectors Editions. A spokeswoman for W H Smith said: "Our customers are looking for more mainstream products. Most of the products can still be ordered through us."

Leading article, page 19

Climber is killed by avalanche

An experienced climber who fell 1,000ft to his death in an avalanche in Scotland was named yesterday as Kevin Wilson, 41. Mr Wilson, from Acomb, York, was tackling the 3,708ft Creag Meagaidh in the Grampian Mountains, despite warnings of dangerous conditions.

He is the third climber to die in Scotland this week, and the seventh this year.

Body in canal

Emergency services recovered a man's body from a canal yesterday after it was spotted floating in the water by a passer-by at Brierley Hill, West Midlands. Detectives are treating the death as suspicious.

Hue and fly

The RSPCA has condemned cruelty to pigeons after pink, yellow and green birds appeared in central London. It is thought that they have been dipped in vegetable dye as a prank. The dye could last for up to a year.

Children safe

Two missing children have been found safe in Ireland with their mother. Stephen Divers appealed to his partner, Regina Bough, 24, to return Debbie, 3, and Charles, 5, who were taken from his London home.

Leasing takes off

No 32 (The Royal) Squadron, whose duties include carrying the Royal Family, has leased two French-made Squirrel helicopters. It is the first time the RAF has leased rather than bought aircraft.

'Leniency' appeal

The prosecution is seeking to appeal over the "lenient" sentences for three middle-class Cardiff youths given up to two years' custody for an attack after which a victim died of natural causes.

Railway heaven

Burials for railway buffs could include wakes in a dining car and a final journey to a trackside cemetery, under a planning application by the Midland Railway Trust, at Ripley, Derbyshire.

Dixons

EASTER SEGA PRICE CRASH

SAVE £85 ON SEGA SATURN

0% INTEREST

SEGA SATURN 3 GAME PACK PLUS ARCADE RACER STEERING WHEEL

Includes Clockwork Knight, International Victory Goal and the new Sega Rally - rated 97% by Saturn Magazine, plus arcade racer steering wheel. Give your kids the wheel, buckle your seat belts and prepare yourself for the ride of your life.

Total Separate Selling Price £434.95

£349.95

MANY STORES OPEN MONDAY Check local store for details.

Dixons There's a great deal going on

345 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Written quotations from Dixons, Dept MK, Harlow, Herts SG12 7TG.

SAVE £5 WITH THIS VOUCHER

HURRY! OFFER ENDS 14th APRIL '96

SIM CITY Be the master of your very own metropolis. In-store Price £44.99.

VOUCHER PRICE £39.99

WORMS The worms have turned and are taking no prisoners! In-store Price £44.99.

HANG ON Hang on! Hang on! Hang on! In-store Price £44.99.

On reader per product. Not to be used with other offers. Offer ends 14th April '96. Based on only 1000 copies of each title. Offer while stocks last.

SEGA SATURN SOFTWARE

WIPE OUT To compete in the Formula 3600 Anti-Gravity Racing League you need driving skills and a survival instinct.

Dixons Deal £39.99

THEME PARK Over 25 simulated rides to create, design and control. In-store Price £44.99.

JOHNNY BAZOOKATONE It's the most exciting 'beat game' game in years. In-store Price £44.99.

VICTORY BOXING Addictive boxing game that captures the excitement of real boxing. In-store Price £44.99.

VIRTUA COP Excellent arcade conversion, with special training modes to improve your skill. In-store Price £44.99.

BATTLE ARENA TOSHINDEN REMIX Features all-new story mode with classic sequences and songs.

FIFA 96 New with team graphics, new player stats, and virtual reality stadium.

Dixons Deal £32.99

PSYCHO PINBALL It's the pinball game from hell - dare you play it?

SONIC AND KNUCKLES They're back, in a whole new matchup adventure. In-store Price £44.99.

PRIMAL RAGE It's the most exciting 'beat game' game in years. In-store Price £44.99.

NFL QUARTERBACK Now it's your turn to face the toughest, toughest team in the league! In-store Price £44.99.

SPOT III Spot goes to Hollywood in his most spectacular on-screen extravaganza to date! In-store Price £44.99.

Mystery of deserted yacht

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN AIRLINE pilot, whose marriage recently collapsed, is missing after his deserted yacht was found aground on mudflats near Southampton with the engines still running.

Norman Harriss set sail in the Solent on Thursday night. When his £30,000 vessel *Jetstream Flyer* was recovered his spectacles and a half-drunk cup of tea were found but there was no sign of the inflatable dinghy. Mr Har-

ris, 45, of Tadworth, Surrey, who worked for British Airways, moored the 33ft yacht at Gosport boatyard where he had told workers his second marriage was over. Lifeboats and inshore rescue vessels joined the search yesterday.

Mr Harriss had telephoned his son Duncan to say he intended sailing until yesterday when he planned to moor at Lynton, Hampshire. Hampshire police said: "There have been no sightings of either the sailor or his

dinghy. We are investigating two theories: that he has gone somewhere in his dinghy or he fell overboard."

Colin Olden, of the Hamble rescue lifeboat, said: "Because the engine was still ticking over and a pair of glasses were found on the deck it was clear that someone had only very recently been on board."

Solent coastguard said: "The search is being run down, almost terminated. It is now being treated as a missing person inquiry."

Black & Decker 3-6v Cordless Screwdriver, Case and Bits KC9019K £39.99 Save £5

Black & Decker Variable Speed Hammer Drill KD163E £57.99 Save £18

Black & Decker Electric Planer KW713 £49.99 Save £10

Bosch Jigsaw PST54E £49.99 Save £10

O.K. Now here's the drill. Get down to Homebase for great savings.

Black & Decker 31-piece Craftsman Drill Bit Set £39.99 Save £12

Curver Large Toolbox £14.99 Save £4.50

Earlex Wallpaper Stripper SS50 £27.99 Save £5

Bosch 10-piece Jigsaw Blade Set £10.99 Save £3.30

Wolfcraft Workbench 2 £49.99 Save £10

HOMEBASE HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

Thursday 4th April 8am - 10pm • Good Friday 5th April 8am - 9pm • Saturday 6th April 8am - 8pm • Easter Sunday 7th April CLOSED • Easter Monday 8th April 9am - 6pm • Tuesday 9th - Wednesday 10th April 8am - 8pm. *Except Watlington, Thames which closes 8pm Thursday, 8pm Friday and 9pm Saturday. **Except Farnham and Hermonston East which are open Easter Sunday 10am-4pm and Easter Monday 8am-9pm.

The Essex clan who cleaned up on the Côte d'Azure



In the first of an occasional series on Britons in France, Bill Frost meets a family building a new life from the ruins of failure in Basildon

HIGH on a sun-dappled hillside near Grasse, Simon Stevens glows over the breathtaking view from his balcony, predicts that soon the pool will be warm enough for a swim and laughs like a drain when asked if he misses Essex.

His extended clan — four generations of the same family from Basildon — all find the question amusing too. In the early spring heat of his perfect Côte d'Azur garden, where the two family dogs snooze in the heat, he said: "Basildon could disappear tomorrow. I couldn't care less — depressing old place, ghost town. It cost me my livelihood, my peace of mind and almost my health — you can keep Essex as far as this family is concerned."

His bitterness is understandable. Mr Stevens, huge and bullet-headed with the physique of an ox, but the temperament of a lamb, had a thriving classic car repair business which went under four years ago. He allowed

too much credit to customers who were already in financial difficulties with the collapse of the specialist market. His suppliers were neither as patient nor as generous — bankruptcy, depression and chronic angina followed.

Driven by desperation, the Stevens family left Essex for the South of France in a Ford Transit with £1,000 and no idea how they were to survive. They had enjoyed a holiday at a campsite near Antibes just before the business collapsed and believed that, "with a will", there was work "for those ready to get off their bums and find it".

Mr Stevens, 44, remembers the journey through France as "a nightmare of hunger, doubt and anxiety". So does his wife, Christine. She said: "There were three generations — us, our two sons, their wives, our parents and a grandchild on the way. It was a terrible worry going back to Antibes but what did Basildon have to offer? Essex gave us no hope at all and I am a firm believer in fate — this was a place where we had been happy before... why not work there in the sunshine among people we liked?"

Rather than return to Basildon, the Stevens family, "down to the last few quid", were willing to do anything, and they did. "In the early days we cleaned lavatories, felled trees and cleared up the rubbish so no one else would touch. Because of my physique, I was able to do some minding too, acting as a bodyguard," said Mr Stevens. In his spare time, he taught himself French, which he now speaks well, albeit with an Essex accent.

The whole family went to work with a vengeance. Mrs Stevens said: "The boys worked around the clock and so did we girls — babysitting and menial jobs on campsites,



Simon and Christine Stevens, who left England and bankruptcy for a villa and a thriving business in France. "For us Basildon does not exist. We are Europeans now"

cleaning some of the filthiest caravans I have ever seen." In his cool and spacious dining room, Mr Stevens relates over lunch how the family's fortunes picked up after he saw a neglected Jaguar XK 150 outside a garage in Grasse. "I went in and told them that I could bring that car back up to concours condition — and I did. From that moment, I was

rolling. Word went round that there was an English mechanic in the area who knew his classic motors."

Mr Stevens leads the way to the immaculately kept lot at the side of his villa where there are vintage Rolls-Royces, elderly Jaguars and other mint-condition classics. "These belong to my English, Dutch and Swedish clients," he says proudly. "I

don't think they have any complaints about my work."

When pressed, Mrs Stevens admits to missing fish and chips and occasionally pops back to Essex for a binge. Her daughter-in-law, Nicola, sometimes craves Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Return trips to Basildon — and they are few — confirm the family in their collective view that life is sweet in the

South of France. "We have sun, security and a view to die for. But most of all we are very happy," says Mrs Stevens. Her husband is not the size of man you ask about income, just in case his gentle manner should crumble, but plainly he is doing very nicely thank you.

However, money seems relatively unimportant to Mr Stevens because he has found something else — contentment. "The last time I went back — I won't call it home — was a nightmare. I played down our lives here, but everyone was still very jealous. For us Basildon does not exist, we are Europeans now. Something special has happened and we are very grateful," he said, as he beamed out over his hillside so far from the Essex flatlands.

Football fan in exile frequently flies 5,000 miles to see Magpies in action

EVERY Newcastle United match is an away fixture for Graham Edmondson — 5,000 miles away. Mr Edmondson, who emigrated to Texas three years ago, has spent thousands of pounds crossing the Atlantic to see his favourite team playing.

"I get back to Britain every five weeks and the first thing I do is look to see who Newcastle are playing," he said. Mr Edmondson, 36, keeps in touch with the team's fortunes with video recordings of every game and newspaper cuttings. He admits: "I'm becoming obsessive and am basing my life around Newcastle's fixtures."

The training manager and consultant, who left Ellingham, Northumberland, for Dallas, gets to about a third of Newcastle's games. He has a season ticket in the East Stand at St James's Park.

His friend Warren Walker, 27, who goes to the matches with Mr Edmondson, said: "It doesn't matter where he goes in the world to work, he's always got time to come back and see Newcastle." When he cannot get home for matches, he lends his season ticket to

friends. Mr Walker, landlord of the Pack Horse Inn in Ellingham, said Mr Edmondson would be flying back for Newcastle's final game of the season, against Tottenham Hotspur on May 5, which could decide the destiny of the Premiership title.

The average price of a return flight from Dallas to Newcastle is £283, according to travel agents. Returning to Britain every five weeks during the football season over the past three years would have cost £6,792.

"Newcastle means a lot to me

and it can be odd living in the USA," Mr Edmondson said. "When I'm not at the games I get very tense. I can't pick up the games on radio so instead of waiting for the final whistle I wait for a phone call from back home to get the score."

Mr Edmondson has formed his own junior football team in Texas — the Dallas Magpies. Star of the side is his son Charlie, 4, who is already showing signs of following his father's fanaticism. Mr Edmondson said: "Charlie was asked to sing an English song at

school and he chose the one he remembers best: *Up the Premier League We Go*."

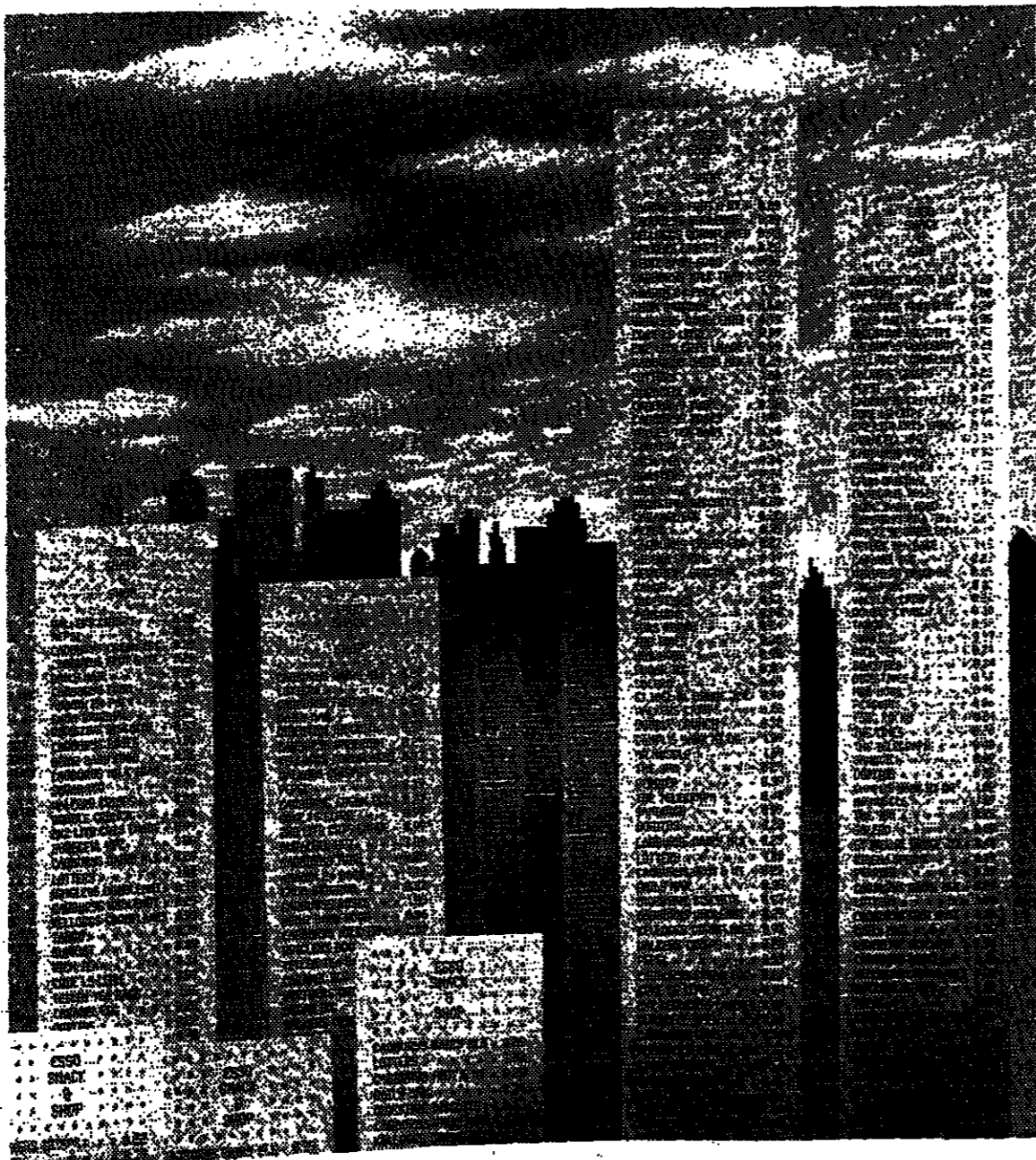
His wife Angela and other children, Holly, 8, and Juliet, 6, are also keen Newcastle fans. "The whole family love Newcastle and when they win we're the happiest family in America," Mr Edmondson said.

But watching the matches on video is a poor substitute for the real thing. "I sit there with a bottle of Brown Ale in my hand, but it's not the same as being there. Exile can be hell."



Graham Edmondson and his son Charlie, star of the Dallas Magpies

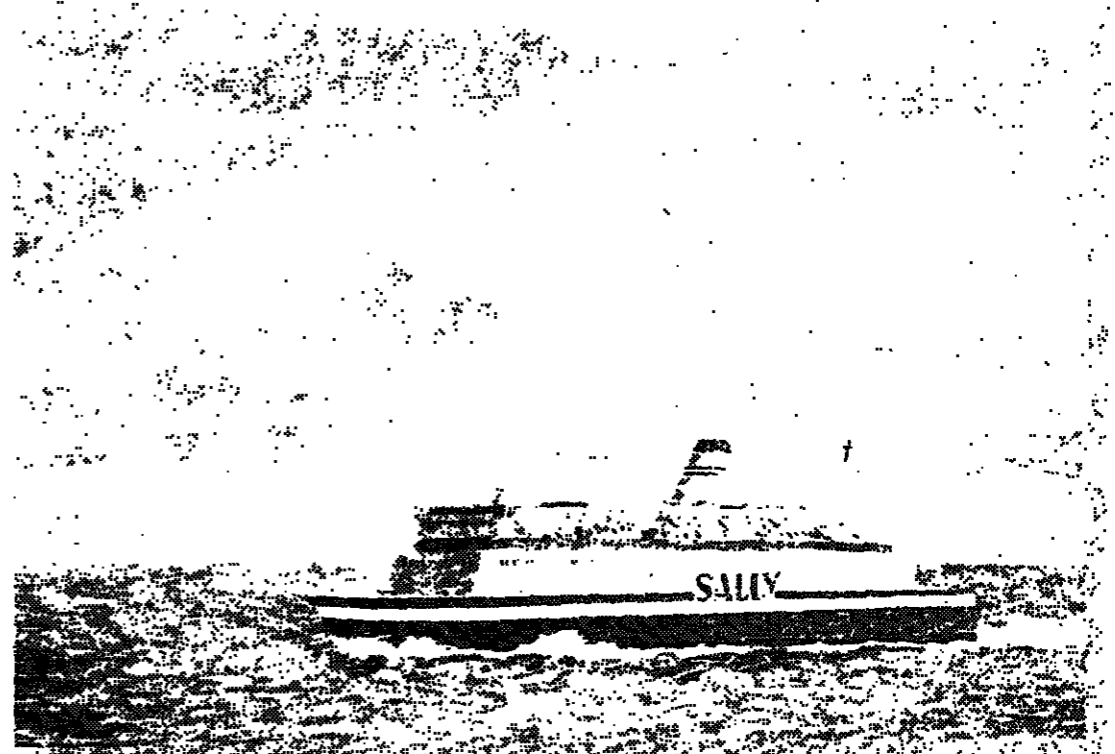
Spend a few pounds at an
Esso Snack & Shop and you could
spend a few days in New York.



Spend at least £3.00 in one of our shops, including a block of Cadbury's chocolate plus anything else you choose, and you and a partner could be heading for a shopping trip to the Big Apple. Alternatively, you could find you've won a trip to The Mall of America, Paris, London, Edinburgh or even a family trip to Cadbury World.

Esso Snack & Shop

See full terms and conditions in participating stores. While stocks last. No purchase necessary. Product range and prices may vary. Promotion ends 31st May 1996.



Self Portrait

Sally '96

Sally Ferries have Channel crossing down to a fine art. Sailing from Ramsgate to either Dunkerque or Ostend, you'll be straight onto the motorway system with the whole of Europe beckoning.

During the crossing, you'll find our service is refreshingly relaxed. Enjoy a meal (our Scandinavian-style Smorgasbord on the Dunkerque route shouldn't be missed) browse around the shops or simply sit back and look forward to the rest of your holiday.

Boarding and disembarking with your car is always as smooth as can be and once on your way on the Continent you'll certainly be left with a marvellous impression of your journey so far.

Call Sally Ferries now on 0345 16 00 00 or contact your local travel agent to book.

SALLY
THE ART OF SMOOTH SAILING

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Tory ministers and the massacre



"This disgraceful activity... was designed to pervert the course of justice in a case concerned with one of the most shameful episodes in British history." Sir Bernard Braine, MP, wrote to Douglas Hurd. "I have been in Parliament for 42 years. I cannot recollect a previous instance of officials conniving at the suppression of records in order to prevent justice being done in the Courts."

Tomorrow we reveal what led a senior MP to accuse the foreign secretary of a "cover-up"

Agents confident of busy Easter

Rising prices and falling costs boost housing market

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT, AND SARA MCCONNELL

DEVELOPERS and estate agents believe the Easter weekend could be their busiest since the recession in the housing market began seven years ago. House prices have risen so sharply in the first three months of the year that they have already exceeded some analysts' predictions for the whole of 1996.

In the latest Halifax index, published this week, house prices for March were 2.6 per cent above those for the fourth quarter of 1995, well above the 2 per cent annual increase predicted by the Halifax and other analysts. The March price increase was the eighth in succession.

Ian Shepherdson, analyst at HSBC, said: "Even if prices don't go up at all until the end of the year, they will have hit the [2 per cent] target." But he

believes prices will increase 5 per cent over the year. Rising prices indicate rising demand. They are coupled with figures from the TSB this week showing that the cost of homebuying is the lowest in nearly 21 years. Typical buyers will spend £25,700 out of every £100 they take home on their mortgage, the lowest since 1978. Last year, the figure was more than £30.

All the signs are now in place for a recovery, according to Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents. Gary Marsh, from the Halifax, said a 1.2 per cent month-on-month increase in prices confirmed the building society's view that the recovery had started.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors reports

that two-thirds of English and Welsh estate agents have had a 10 per cent increase in viewing and valuation requests this year. James Rebbeck, RICS spokesman, said that agents were struggling to find enough properties to sell.

Fresh demand was coming from families who were now moving, on average, every seven years instead of every five. Mr Rebbeck said they were finally succumbing to the need to move to house extra children.

The recovery was happening now because of tax savings coming into effect. Buyers were also being enticed by the ferocious competition in the lending market and the excellent mortgage deals on offer.

The mortgage broker John Charcoal confirmed the recovery in the market. It said that business was up 47 per cent on this time last year.

The Housebuilders' Federation is also bullish about prospects over the Easter weekend. Figures show that 20 per cent of builders surveyed reported higher levels of reservations for new homes in February than January.

Barratt is planning egg hunts at developments in Northampton to provide a family day out and lure buyers. Frank Eaton, chief executive,

said: "We expect increased visitor levels over this coming holiday weekend. Our sales revenue continues to run 7 per cent ahead of last year and we are cautiously optimistic about a steadily improving market."

Galliard Homes plan to launch the second phase of flats for sale at its development at County Hall, opposite the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. They have already received 800 inquiries.

Country agents traditional-

ly hold back their larger country houses until the Easter weekend to take advantage of the Bank Holiday and the better weather to display gardens. Among properties Savills is launching this weekend is Purley Hall in Pangbourne, Berkshire, a Grade II manor house in 22 acres of landscaped grounds with a lake, swimming pool and tennis court, price £2.5 million.

Mr Rebbeck, of the RICS, said: "There are inevitably

teething problems as the market begins to recover. Supply and demand are not inalterable at the moment. But this could all change again because as demand increases more people will put their houses on the market. And there is a tremendous overhang of unsold properties. So later in the year the market could face different problems. It will be a case of two steps forward, one step back."

Property, Weekend, page 11



All the signs are now in place for a recovery, according to the National Association of Estate Agents



MORE GOODIES INSIDE THAN A PATISSERIE VAN.

Power assisted steering. Driver's side airbag. Tilt and slide sunroof. Remote control Hi-fi. RAPS engine immobiliser. Remote central door locking. Electric front windows. Tinted glass. 5-speed gearbox (or automatic option). All at a mouth watering price - from just £10,820 on the road!

RENAULT
CARS
WITH FLAIR

For more information about the Renault Clio, please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and return to Renault UK, FREEPOST, PO Box 21, Thame, Oxon OX9 1BN, or telephone 0800 52 51 50.

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Other Initials Surname Address

Town County Postcode

Tel (DAYS) Tel (EVEN) Your Current Car (e.g. RENAULT) Model (e.g. CLIO) OTHERS

Reg Letter (e.g. K) Will your next car be New ☐ Used ☐ Likely replacement date: Month Year e.g. [09]/[96] Tick box for 'Mobility' details ☐

All Renault Clio have a 12-month unlimited mileage warranty with free RAC membership plus an 8-year anti-rust warranty and Renault Accident Service. Safety: Price correct at time of going to press. Clio 1.4 3-door includes 17.5% VAT and 'key in hand' charge of £275 which covers delivery to the dealer, finance, plates, security, service, etc. and is inclusive of Government road fund licence. Other goods or services supplied by agreement between the customer and dealer are not included. Car shown Clio 1.4 3-door with optional metallic paint and alloy wheels £11,820. *Finance offer limited to skilled persons in any new Renault Clio 1.4 3-door. Repayment to 30 April 1996. Interest rate 9.9% per annum. Credit facilities provided and arranged by Renault UK Finance. This agreement is placed on behalf of the vehicle supplier Renault UK Limited, Wokingham, Wokingham Road, Wokingham RG40 3EX and not financial institution. Renault UK Finance is not a financial institution.



Paul and Sarah Burns outside their home in Stoke Bishop, bought when their flat became too small

Young sense it is time to move on

BY RACHEL KELLY AND CHRISTOPHER HUGHES

PAUL and Sarah Burns used to come home from work to suffer a night of booming pop music coming through the floorboards. They had bought a top-floor flat in Redland, Bristol, before the rooms below were purchased by an agency that specialised in student lettings.

The clash of lifestyles and the desire to start a family were reasons for selling up. Earlier this year they moved to a three-bedroom house in Stoke Bishop, a well-to-do Bristol suburb.

The one-bedroom flat had been on the market for over a year until, amid signs of a rising market, the Burns, who are in their late twenties, accepted £50,000. While the figure is £4,000 less than they paid for it, the couple are realistic. Mr Burns said: "It's the classic negative equity situation - everyone's in it. But we got £10,000 off the house and so saved on that side."

Sarah Knight and her fiancé Jamie Rumsby had bided their time before buying a house. They have just com-

pleted the purchase of a new two-bedroom house in Gosport, Hampshire, as they feel that it no longer makes sense to rent.

Miss Knight, 24, a nurse, says that mortgage repayments on the house are about £75 a month less than the rent they paid. "We'd had enough of renting," Miss Knight said. "We previously rented a house with a friend in Gosport, but we felt we were throwing money away. It made sense for us to buy somewhere of our own. Homes on their development start at £49,995."

Like other first-time buyers, Miss Knight and Rumsby, a 22-year-old airline engineer, were won over by special offers currently being offered by builders. The couple had to put down a £250 reservation fee. At their deposit, £500 legal and survey expenses, and completed the house at no extra cost.

Miss Knight said: "The deals for first-time buyers were much better than those offered by other builders. We didn't have a lot in savings so the Barratt deposit scheme solved that problem."

Solicitors search for lost property

BY JON ASHWORTH

SOLICITORS fear being sued for negligence by mortgage lenders after changes to local government boundaries have left them unable to carry out property searches.

Last week's changes saw ten counties in England and Wales disappear and no official maps have been drawn to show what has become of them. As a result, the whereabouts of seven million properties in Avon, Humberside and Cleveland is now uncertain. The situation in Wales is worse, with only Gwynedd remaining out of eight previous counties.

The Environment Department concedes that there are no new maps. Solicitors fear a rash of negligence claims from lenders if borrowers are found to have profited from the confusion by taking out several loans. There is also scope for a bankruptcy or county court judgment to go undetected.

The main problem is determining where a dwelling lies. The authoritative work on the subject, the *Directory of Local Authorities*, is not due to be updated until November.

Richard Sherrington, senior partner of Sherringtons solicitors in north London, and his partner Jonathan Newman saw the potential for confusion in a note from the Land Charges Registry.

Mr Sherrington said: "It is again the much-maligned legal profession that must try and extricate the public from this government-inspired chaos. This will probably involve duplicate searches and registrations until authoritative information is available. It will mean searching and registering in five or six counties to be sure of legal protection."

The problem could apply to any loan involving unregistered land. Buying a home is less affected as properties are usually registered, but scope for error remains.

The fear is that a lender will sue the solicitor if searches and registration are found to have occurred in the wrong area. The Solicitors' Indemnity Fund, which deals with professional negligence claims against solicitors, said the potential for disaster existed.

Weekend money, pages 27-35

هاتف النجدة

Passengers who paid up to £21,000 for 116-day cruise furious as voyage is abandoned in the Red Sea

Cunard braces itself for compensation bill

THE CRUISE

REPORTS BY
ANDREW PIERCE

CUNARD is facing a huge compensation bill after 560 passengers were evacuated yesterday afternoon from the stricken *Royal Viking Sun* cruise liner, which was holed after striking a coral reef in the Red Sea.

An inquiry has been ordered into the accident, which has deeply embarrassed Cunard. Passengers, including 54 Britons, who had paid up to £21,000 for the 116-day voyage, were in hotels in Egypt last night preparing to fly back to Britain today.

It was reported that some of the passengers were on board as compensation after Cunard's *MV Sagaford* ground to a halt in February in the South China Sea, midway through a world voyage, when fire broke out in her generators. Cunard denied the report.

The new setback comes only 15 months after the company settled a £7.5 million compensation claim from the QE2's December 1994 cruise which was launched before a £30 million refit had been completed. Last year the troubled company lost £16.4 million.



The majority of the passengers were in the dining rooms when the ship struck the reef at 9.15pm on Thursday as it was sailing up the Strait of Tiran in the Red Sea on its way to Aqaba in Jordan. There was a loud crash and the lights went out. A hole two

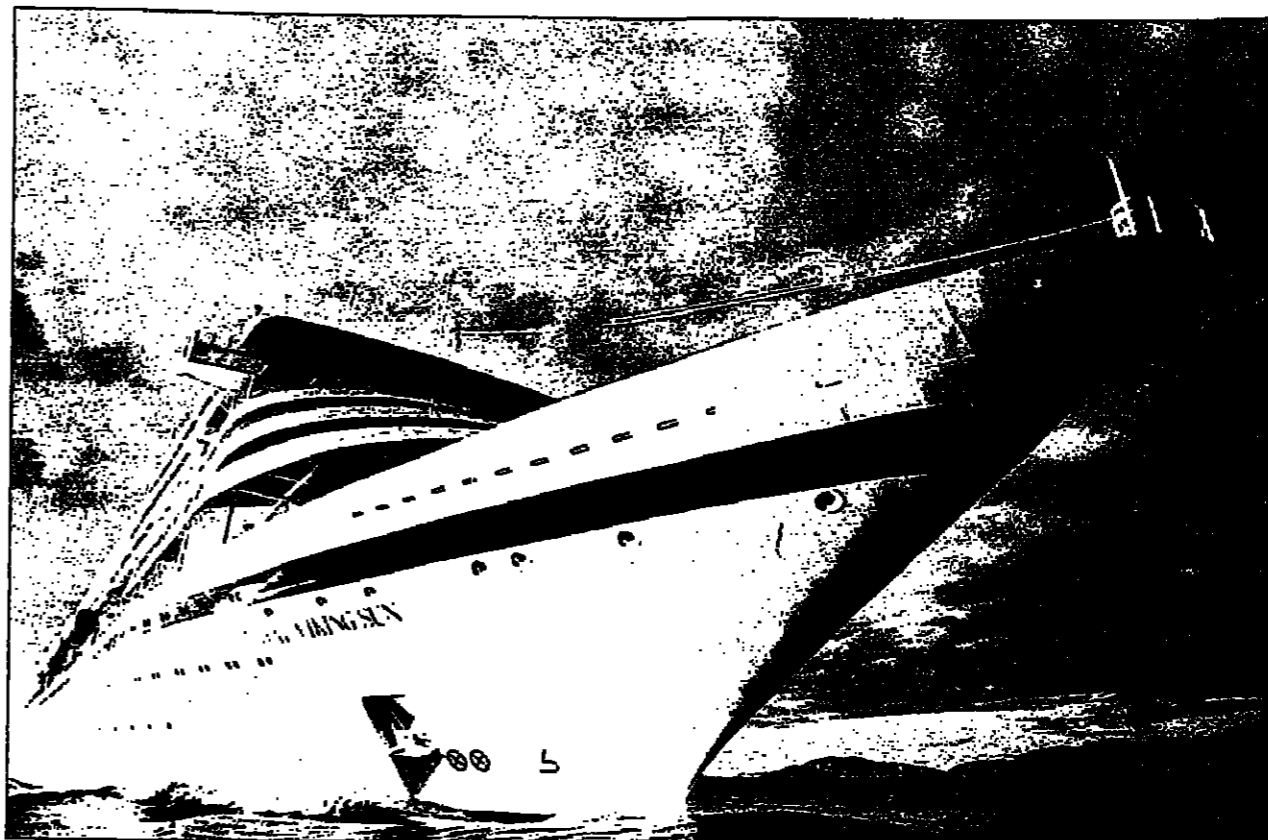
and a half feet wide by a foot high was gouged in the starboard side of the hull below the water line. Road Elman, the ship's technical engineer, said: "The ship shook, as though we had hit the ground or something." Distress calls from the ship,

which had listed eight degrees, were sent out when water flooded into two engine rooms and power was lost. Passengers, many in bathgowns and some in pyjamas, were ordered to lifeboat stations in their lifejackets. The weather was warm and the sea was calm. They remained by the lifeboats for an hour until the alert was called off when the crew reduced the degree of list.

The vessel, which was stuck on the reef, was moved within five minutes yesterday morning by tugboats from Aqaba and towed to the Egyptian port of Sharm el Sheikh in five hours. It was anchored in the port last night.

To the fury of many passengers Cunard announced that the cruise was abandoned and arrangements were being made to fly them home. They were taken to local hotels before being flown to Cairo for return flights back to London today.

Bill Spears, director of public relations for Cunard, confirmed that there was no malfunction with the technical equipment. He was unable to say whether the master, Captain Ola Harsheim, who has been with the ship since it was built in Finland in 1988, had negotiated the waterway before. Capt Harsheim is one of



The *Royal Viking Sun*: passengers were ordered to the lifeboats after she began to take on water

Cunard's most experienced masters. He had a team of Scandinavian officers but the 450-strong crew was of all nationalities.

Mr Spears said: "There was no local pilot on board because the waterway is not regarded as particularly tricky. We are confident one was not required. We cannot speculate on the cause. There are uncharted reefs in the Red Sea. No one panicked. Everything was done in an orderly fashion. Morale remained

high." Tempers were soothed when the five bars on board were made free for the remainder of the time passengers were on board and free champagne was served in every cabin.

The 37,845-ton *Royal Viking Sun* is the premier cruise liner in the world. It was built by Wärtsilä Marine Industries in Turku, Finland, in 1988 and passengers paid £72,000 for the 100-day maiden voyage. Cunard bought her in 1994 and it became the flagship of

the company's £219 million fleet. The round-the-world Discovery of Golden Civilisations cruise began at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on January 6.

Mr Spears said that compensation claims would be looked at sympathetically and insisted that Cunard would hit its target of returning to profitability in 1998.

"We have a very good record of passengers coming back to Cunard," he said. "We have a loyal passenger base.

We are doing all we can to make sure people are comfortable. This is a world-class ship and an unfortunate incident. We're trying to respond in a world-class way."

Tim Webb, president of Abercrombie and Kent Overseas Limited, the ground handlers for the ship in Egypt, said that nobody was injured and the passengers appeared to be in good spirits. "They did not appear to be very upset. I think they understood the situation," he said.

Luxury of seeing the world from a croquet court

THE £75 million *Royal Viking Sun*, which boasts the world's only seaborne croquet court, has no facilities to detect hidden objects beneath the waves unless they are directly underneath the hull.

The 674ft liner, which was nearing the end of its 116-day cruise, has the latest radar equipment. A master qualified to captain the ship is always at the helm. The radar picks out objects only above the surface. The vessel, which travels at up to 21 knots, has a draught of 24ft and an echo sounder system, that tells the depth below the hull.

Bill Spears, director of public relations for Cunard, said: "It detects uncharted obstacles directly below the surface. If you were in a car it would tell you what is directly underneath your vehicle but not what was coming up."

Passengers, mainly pensioners, had paid up to £21,000 for the world cruise. They had gone ashore in more than 25 countries, including Australia, China and India, by the time the collision happened.

The ship set sail on January 6 from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and was due to return on April 29. The 500 passengers had travelled in style. Facilities include five restaurants and bars, a casino, theatre, library, card room, spa and sporting facilities, glass-walled lifts and oak-paneled

THE BOAT

lounges. The ship is rated the finest in the world by the *Berlitz Guide for Cruising and Cruise Ships*. Some passengers never set foot on dry land. There is plenty to occupy them on board: two swimming pools, three wine cellars, a casino and ballrooms.

The ship's first ports of call were Costa Rica and Acapulco. It then sailed to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Hawaii. On February 2 it crossed the international date-line to Fiji, cruised the Coral Sea and on to Australia and the Philippines.

The first overnight stop was in Hong Kong, the next in Shanghai, before moving to Hiroshima and another overnight stop in Osaka. The ship anchored in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, for 24 hours, with further overnight stays in Bangkok and Singapore. The cruise then visited Madras and the Seychelles, with a 24-hour stay in Mombassa.

It entered the final phase of the cruise when it moved on to Yemen and across the Red Sea into Aqaba. The premature end of the cruise robbed the passengers of the chance to visit Suez City, Egypt, Beirut, Haifa, in Israel, Cyprus, Naples, Puerto Banus in Spain, Casablanca, Madeira and Bermuda.

Sailing back into troubled waters

CUNARD was once a name that evoked the golden age of sea travel. But the hoing of the *Royal Viking Sun* is the latest in a series of public relations disasters.

The QE2 used to be one of the wonders of the holiday-making world, along with Concorde and the Orient Express. That was before the Christmas 1994 cruise, which began before a £30 million refit had been completed. Passengers had to share the trip with a team of British workmen who were trying to finish the refurbishment but succumbed to sea-sickness.

Passengers who had to contend with floods, rubble-strewn decks and exploding lavatories relayed their horror stories to the world's media by mobile telephone.

The liner berthed in New York—and was not allowed to leave until essential repairs were carried out, after US coastguards accused Cunard of risking passengers' lives.

Passengers launched a class action in New York for compensation. The final payout was £7.5 million. Just when Cunard had begun to recover from the humiliation, port officials in Southampton condemned food hygiene on the QE2 last summer and threatened legal action.

In 1993, Cunard was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £120 after complaints that a cruise

THE COMPANY

advertised as a "two-day" trip lasted 38 hours.

The QE2 was grounded in 1992 after striking an "uncharted" object off the US coast. Millions were lost while repairs took it out of service.

In February this year, Cunard's luxury cruise liner *Sagaford* became becalmed in the South China Sea while carrying 500 passengers and had to be towed to the Philippines after a fire in the generator room. It has been withdrawn from service.

Some of the passengers were compensated by joining the current world cruise of the *Royal Viking Sun*.

The latest debacle will once more thrust Eric Flounders, Cunard's belligerent public relations manager, into the media spotlight.

Mr Flounders, 48, is, by his own admission, not typical of the breed. He eschews gin and tonic in favour of a pint.

The former teacher, once Liberal Democrat leader of Tower Hamlets council in east London, stood for Parliament but quit politics because he tired of the in-fighting.

However, Mr Flounders can at least make light of his troubles. "When the telephone goes and it's a newsdesk, my heart sinks," he says. "It usually means a ship has."

"WE'VE GOT THE MOWER FOR EVERY LAWN."

MICHAEL CASEY: B&Q LONGSTONE

HAND MOWER
Qualcast Panther 30
12ins cutting width, adjustable cutting heights, grassbox and rear roller for striping lawns.
£34.75

CYLINDER MOWERS
Qualcast Concorde E30
Electric Cylinder Mower
12ins cutting width, 280W, 3 cutting heights, grassbox and 12m cable.
Was £82.
KEY NOW PRICE £69

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q NOW!

Pick up a leaflet in store. Does not apply in B&Q Warehouse or B&Q Depots.

Qualcast Concorde 35
Electric Cylinder Mower
14ins cutting width, 325W, 3 cutting heights, grassbox and 12m cable.
£97

Qualcast Classic 30
Electric Cylinder Mower
12ins cutting width, 340 watt, 5 cutting heights, grassbox, steel rear roller for striping lawns and 24.5m cable.
£165

Qualcast Classic 35S
Petrol Cylinder Mower
14ins cutting width, 148cc, 5 cutting heights, grassbox, recoil start and steel rear roller for striping lawn.
£349.99

PETROL ROTARY
Mounfield Omega Laser
42 Push Mower
16ins cutting width with 3 1/2hp Briggs & Stratton Petrol Engine, recoil start and 50 litre grass collection bag.
KEY NOW PRICE £169.99

Super 42 Self
Propelled Mower
16ins cutting width, 3 1/2hp engine, recoil start and 50 litre grass collection bag.
£199

ELECTRIC ROTARY
Qualcast Quadtrak
Electric Rotary Mower
12ins cutting width, 625W, 3 cutting heights, grassbox and 12m cable.
Was £82.
KEY NOW PRICE £79.99

Black & Decker
GR360C 'Stripmaster'
Rotary Mower
13ins cutting width, 1150W motor, 5 cutting heights, grassbox and 25m cable. Was £125.
NOW £99

Qualcast Turbo 30 Electric
Rotary Mower
12ins cutting width, 850W, 3 cutting heights, grassbox and 12m cable.
£99.50

Flymo Ventura
Turbo 350 Wheeled
Rotary Mower
14ins cutting width, 1400W, 7 cutting heights, grassbox and 20m cable.
£145

HOVER MOWERS
Flymo Minimo E25
Electric Hover Mower
10ins cutting width, 750W motor, 2 cutting heights and 16m cable.
£49.50

Black & Decker
GX260C Hover Mower
12ins cutting width, 850W motor with 16m cable.
KEY NOW PRICE £59.99

Flymo Sprinter E300
Electric Hover Mower
12ins cutting width, 950W motor, 4 adjustable cutting heights and 15m cable.
£72

HOVER COLLECT
Flymo Minimo Plus XE
Electric Hover Mower
10ins cutting width, 900W and 15m cable.
£89.99

Black & Decker
GX530C Hovermaster
12ins cutting width, 1250W, 6 cutting heights and 16m cable. Was £122.
NOW £99

Flymo Micro
Compact 300
Plus Hover Mower
12ins cutting width, 1150W, 4 cutting heights and 15m cable.
Was £119.
KEY NOW PRICE £114.99

Flymo Turbo
Compact 300
Electric Hover Mower
12ins cutting width, 1250W, 4 cutting heights and 15m cable. Was £135.
KEY NOW PRICE £129.99

EASTER OPENING HOURS

England, Scotland and Wales: Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday and Bank Holiday Monday: 8am-8pm.
Northern Ireland: Thursday, Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday: 7.30am-4pm. Saturday: 7.30am-8pm.
Easter Sunday: England and Wales: closed. Scotland and Northern Ireland: 9am-6pm.
Certain stores may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.

B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

Offers subject to availability, please phone to check before travelling. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouse, B&Q Depots or The Depot. See us for details of our price promise.

**A BIGGER CHOICE
A BETTER PRICE**

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y. CHAIN -
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166

THE IKEA KITCHEN. FAVOURED BY BANK MANAGERS AND ACCOUNTANTS EVERYWHERE.

Take a look at an IKEA kitchen and the appeal is obvious. But what is it that makes them particularly desirable to those of a financial bent?

Could it be the extraordinarily attractive design that excites these ordinarily earnest individuals? Or the range of fourteen different styles, from traditional to modern, that inspires such uncommon verve.

Perhaps it's the gilt-edged security of knowing that every craftsman-built IKEA kitchen has been thoroughly tested to withstand the roughest treatment, and carries the prestigious Möbelfakta mark to prove it.

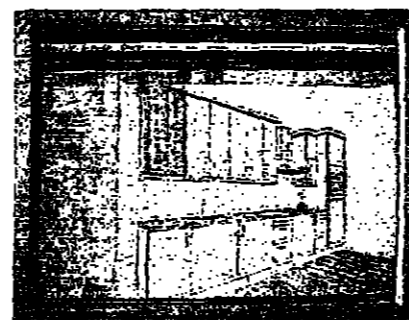
And who wouldn't appreciate a free computer planning service, with expert consultants on hand to help you design the perfect kitchen for your home.

Then there's the choice of taking your kitchen away yourself or, for just a little extra, having it delivered. Add the option of professional installation and it soon becomes clear that if you're looking for a new kitchen, IKEA's the only place to go.

And of course, with this Nexus kitchen priced at just £1652, you can't overlook the astounding value for money.

Which means that whatever your profession, you can afford a high-quality IKEA kitchen. Without having to cook the books.

To see the complete IKEA kitchen range, visit your local store. To arrange a free no-obligation kitchen planning appointment, please telephone your nearest IKEA Kitchen Department.



With our free 3D planning system you can see exactly how your new kitchen will look in your home.



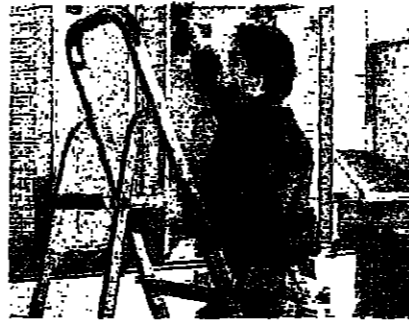
You can take your kitchen home today, or for a small extra charge we can arrange to have it delivered to your home.



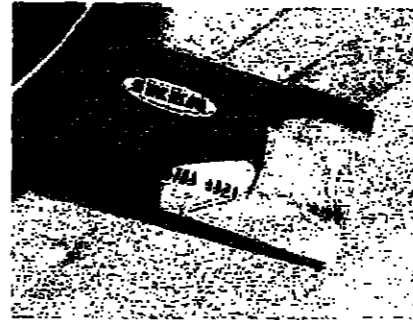
There's space for just about everything in an IKEA kitchen. And as all our cabinets are tested to the strictest Möbelfakta standards, you can be sure of their quality.



From hobs and ovens to refrigerators IKEA offer a full range of Zanussi appliances.



Install your kitchen yourself using the easy-to-follow instructions or for an extra charge let our expert installers do it for you.



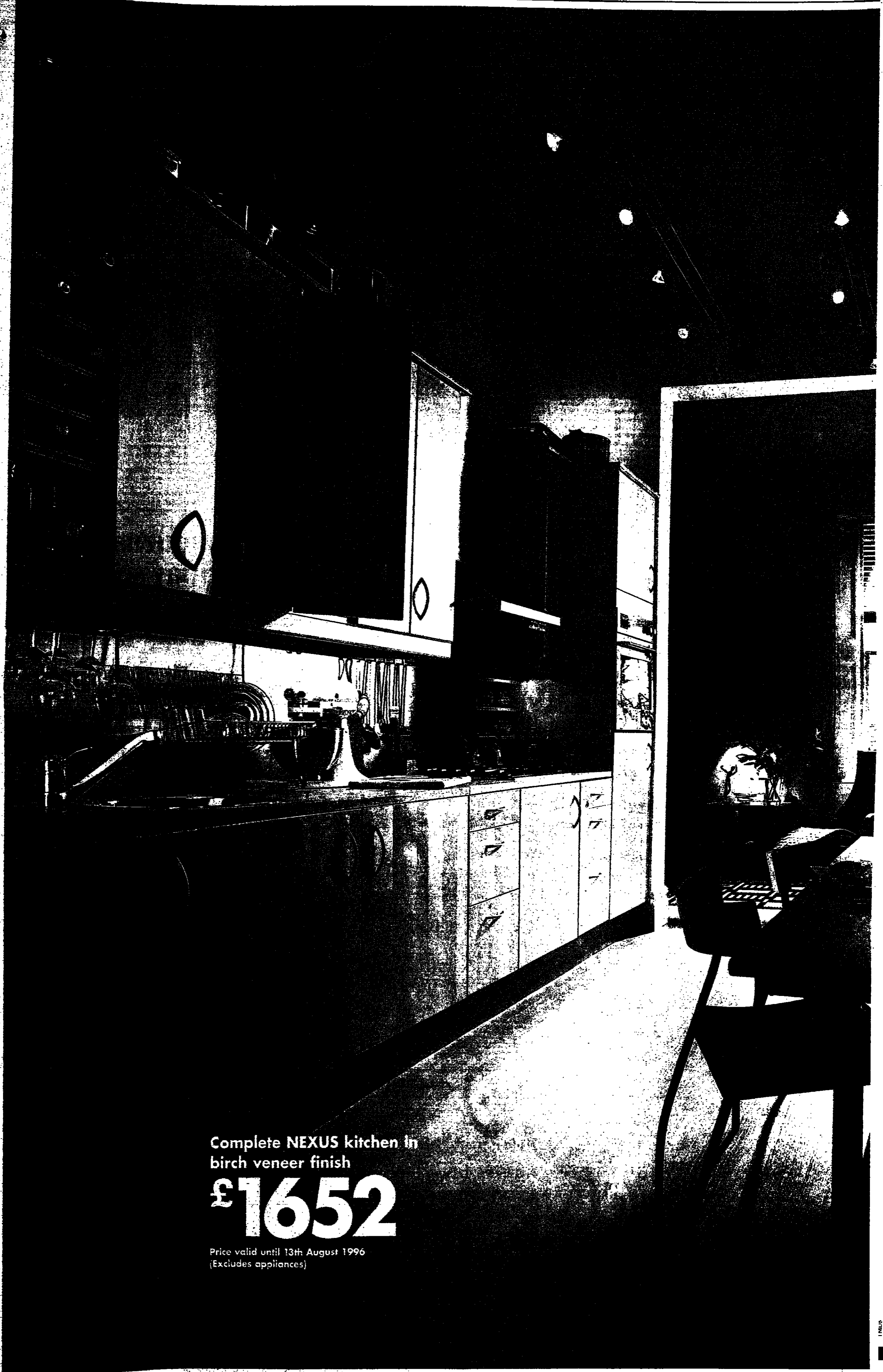
Pay the way that suits you best - cash, cheque or credit card.



The home furnishings store from Sweden.

IKEA LEEDS Tel: Kitchen Dept. 01924 427 668 / Customer Service 01924 423 296 **IKEA BRENT PARK WEMBLEY** Tel: Kitchen Dept. 0181 233 2224 / Customer Service 0181 208 5600
IKEA CROYDON Tel: Kitchen Dept. 0181 710 0019 / Customer Service 0181 208 5601 **IKEA WARRINGTON** Tel: Kitchen Dept. 01925 642 270 / Customer Service 01925 655 889
IKEA GATESHEAD Tel: Kitchen Dept. 0191 461 1135 / Customer Service 0191 461 0202 **IKEA BIRMINGHAM** Tel: Kitchen Dept. 0121 568 6735 / Customer Service 0121 526 5232

دربارهٔ اینستاگرام



Complete NEXUS kitchen in
birch veneer finish

£1652

Price valid until 13th August 1996
(Excludes appliances)

After 650 years of ruin, it was sold as 'suitable for conversion'. Instead the buyer's life was changed

Resurrection for church that found a saviour

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CHURCH which lost its last parishioners to the Black Death re-opened for worship last night for the first time in more than 600 years, after being rescued from dereliction by a non-churchgoer.

The tiny Norman building was covered in graffiti and up for sale as suitable for conversion into a house when Douglas Chapman, a chartered surveyor, fell in love with it at first sight. But instead of converting it into a home, he decided to restore it in medieval detail.

Now the floor is strewn with straw and herb-scented leaves and the building lit with candles, as it would have been when it was built in the 11th century. Its future is non-denominational: Christian and Buddhist chants were part of last night's Good Friday service.

The church, surrounded by fields on the North Downs near Gillingham, Kent, is open for visitors to look around over Easter. The village it once served, Dode — named after a ninth century Anglo Saxon settler — fell into ruin and vanished like many others after the plague wiped out the inhabitants.

Mr Chapman, 51, from Detling, near Maidstone, has now named the church Dode. Last night he said: "I don't



Abandoned since the Black Death, the interior of the church is now restored with medieval touches

know why I bought it — I just fell in love with it. It's a beautiful place. I decided it would be a lovely thing to look after."

Mr Chapman was brought up in the Church of England and believes in the "deity" but does not describe himself as a practising Christian. He will now be attending the services and hopes the doors can be permanently open to passing visitors for meditation and prayer.

The Roman Catholic Church put the grey, stone building up for sale four years

ago, expecting it to be converted into a dwelling place. Mr Chapman had the support of the local community when he bought it for £67,000. He is now seeking funds to build a 15th-century-style retreat house next door.

Services such as compline, the monastic evening office, will take place every fortnight at times chosen deliberately so that they do not clash with services at nearby parish churches. Worship will be conducted by local Anglican and Catholic clergy.

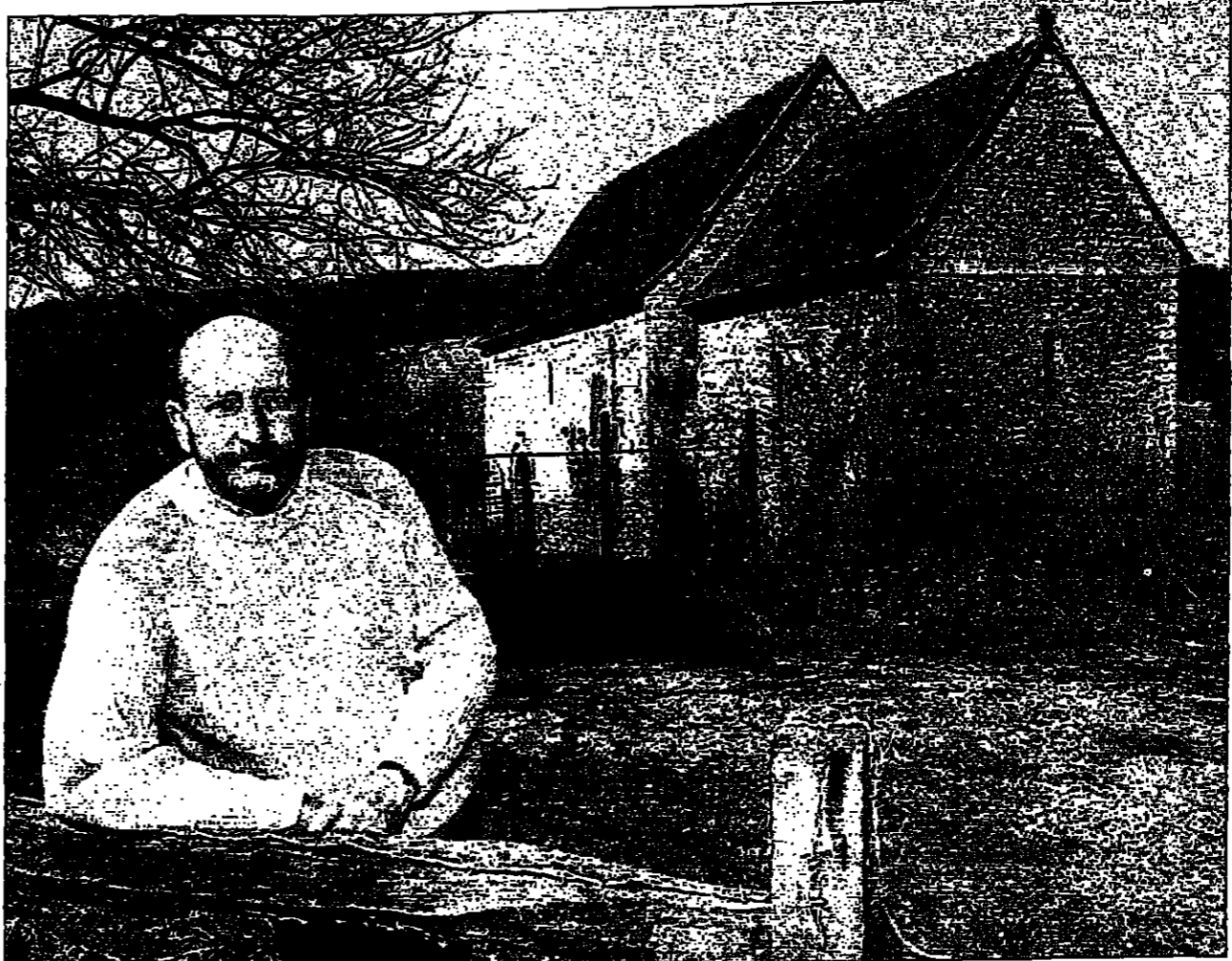
Mr Chapman is encourag-

ing multi-faith events, and intends no particular denominational allegiance. He said: "It was a Catholic church which survived the Reformation because the village it used to serve was destroyed by the Black Death in 1349."

"The building was the only one in the village of any substance, but within a very short time the Bishop of Rochester wrote to the priest and told him to shut up shop because he just could not support a church there any longer. I have a copy of that letter. The building just sat there for the next few hundred years. It gradually fell into disrepair and began to fall down. A roof was put back at the beginning of this century, but the walls are the original walls. It was just a bare shell when I purchased it."

"I'm not a churchgoer. I'm not religious. I believe in a God but I'm not a fully paid up member of any church. I was brought up in the Christian faith but I'm not a regular churchgoer, although I believe there is a deity."

"I cannot explain why I bought it. You have to go to the church itself to understand it. You walk in the door and either say 'I understand why you bought it' or you don't. If you understand it, you are on my wavelength. I certainly didn't want to see it turned into a house. I'm a great lover of old buildings. This is my



Douglas Chapman at Dode: "I'm not a churchgoer but I fell in love with this place. It's beautiful"

own little campaign. My personal campaign. I love the building, the atmosphere. You don't have to be a paid-up member of the church to understand that it is a holy place."

Although multi-faith worship will take place there, Mr

Chapman insisted: "It remains a Christian church which is open to all."

The only reason there is no Easter Day service is because all the local clergy are too busy taking services in their own churches.

Mr Chapman added: "This

is a rare and magical place, looking today like it did some 900 years ago when it was first built in the time of William Rufus, the son of the Conqueror."

"As you stand at the stone altar, you stand where over 800 years ago a priest told of

the death of Thomas à Becket. As you kneel in the nave you stand where almost 650 years ago the villagers prayed for their loved ones as the Black Death swept England."

At your service.
Weekend, page 3

Lower mowers for all you Percy Throwers.

£129

AYP 20" Petrol Rotary Mower
With Briggs & Stratton
3.5Hp Engine

DO IT ALL
Offer of the month!



Offer valid 1-30 April. Subject to availability. For help or advice on doing up your garden or any other DIY problem call the Do It All Helpline: Freephone 0800 436 436.



Bishop mourns loss of Good Friday solemnity

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A LEADING Church of England bishop condemned retailers, publicans and local authorities yesterday for devaluing the meaning of Easter by treating Good Friday like a normal working day. The Archbishop of Canterbury, however, said that the Church should adapt to the changing face of Sundays and Holy days.

The Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, said he was saddened that the true meaning of Easter was being lost. Speaking after leading a "witness" procession of about 1,000 Christians through the streets of Solihull, he said: "This is still a majority Christian country and for Christians Good Friday is one of the most solemn days in the year. Without remembering the Crucifixion on Good Friday you can't celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday."

"It actually hurts me to see the world not noticing and not keeping it as a solemn day in the way it was done when I was a boy, when all the shops were shut. People were given time for reflection. If no day is special then life gets boring. People have got to get away from the notion that things like this are just a matter of individual choice. There has to be some sort of commercial



Bishop Santer: criticised shops, pubs and councils

and corporate decision to make an effort to keep days like Good Friday solemn."

This Easter weekend is the first under new licensing laws allowing pubs to open nearly all day yesterday and Easter Sunday.

Coventry City Council was criticised by the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, for new working practices which meant that two thirds of its staff worked yesterday. The Rev Lawrence Mortimer, the bishop's spokesman, said: "It has to be easy for Christians to say that they want to go to church on Good Friday and that is hard to do in this

present culture. We feel it is slightly unthinking."

The council said the change in working conditions had been made as part of measures negotiated with trades unions to save £2 million.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said that the Church should not throw up its hands in horror when people went shopping instead of to church. Its task was to make the most of surveys showing that many people still believed in God and had a deep attachment to the Church.

"When I was growing up, with a non-churchgoing family and background, nevertheless Good Friday was special," he told Classic FM. "You didn't have to go to church, but there was something about the setting-apart of that day that was quite important. People took note of it."

"Now we go along to our shops and so on. Now I'm not one to mourn this for too long. We have to face the fact that we live in a changed world and therefore the Christian Church has got to adapt."

He said that the Easter story still carried a significant message and he was convinced of its truth. "I wouldn't be saying these things if I didn't believe them. In fact if I didn't believe them I wouldn't be doing this job."

An example of humility that we can all emulate

Credo

Michael Nazir-Ali

The story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, during his farewell meal with them, continues to puzzle people today much as it puzzled people then. In most cultures, the younger serves the elder and the disciple serves the master. The reversal of these roles is unthinkable.

We know from St John's Gospel that Jesus did, indeed, feel that everything had been turned upside down. It is often said that the act of foot-washing was regarded as so degrading in the ancient world that Jewish masters could not require it of their Jewish slaves. On the other hand, it is also true that children washed their parents' feet and disciples the feet of their master.

But while Jesus's act was contrary to social convention, it was central to his understanding of his own ministry. When John speaks of Jesus "laying aside" his garments for the foot-washing, he is evoking also Jesus laying down his life and being laid in the tomb. God, in coming to dwell as man in Jesus, had emptied himself, taken the form of a slave and suffered for our sakes.

It is certainly correct to see in this action an example of

humility we can all emulate. Jesus makes this connection when he tells his disciples. "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." This is why the Church continues to remind its ministers in particular, at this time, of the humble service to which they have been called.

At foot-washings in churches throughout the world this week, ministers are reminded that they are not greater than their master who washed his disciples' feet.

The story also tells us something about God. Here is a God who is worlds away from the effortless omnipotence which some ascribe to him. Here is a God who "though rich, yet for our sakes became poor", a God who is prepared even to taste pain and death because of his love for us. In Christ, God reveals himself not only as the one who has brought the world into being and who

directs its course, but as one who struggles to perfect a manifestly imperfect universe which is genuinely "other", and which can resist the divine operation.

In Christ we see the power of God and the wisdom of God. It is true that neither of these are easily recognised in the world. They are, nevertheless, only too real. It is through the powerlessness of service and sacrifice that the world is healed. It is on the cross that human beings are won back for God's purposes.

It is on the cross that God is revealed as suffering in and with his creation. The struggle between good and evil is real and costly. Patiently, God is working his purposes out, overcoming evil, healing the world and transforming lives.

God calls us to partnership with him in this great enterprise. It is a call to powerlessness, persecution and even loneliness. But as we serve God in this way, we become vehicles for God's power which changes us and those around us so that the world may be "charged with the grandeur of God".

□ The Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali is Bishop of Rochester.

سازمان الای

Dini launches poll crusade to rescue Italy from Right

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

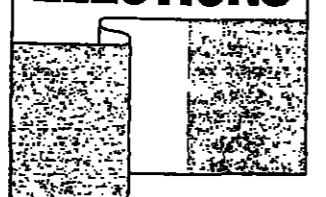
LAMBERTO DINI, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday said he hoped to win this month's election with the help of the Left to save Italy from "the danger of right-wing extremism". In a reference to the growing power of the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale led by Gianfranco Fini, Signor Dini said he had entered the electoral race "to bring the moderates back where they belong".

Signor Dini said his 16 months in office at the head of a non-party "technocratic" Government had shown the need for "responsible" administration. "Extreme positions" had gained the upper hand in the Centre-Right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi since it collapsed after eight months in 1994. Signor Dini stepped in as caretaker leader, but now hopes to stay in power. "I worry about whether the Right can be trusted to govern in the general interest, the collective interest. There is a risk that extreme positions will prevail on the Right ... and I see this as a danger to our country."

Signor Dini, a former banker and International Monetary Fund official, was Treasury Minister under Signor Berlusconi, and took over as interim leader in January 1995. At first he was seen as dull, but has won respect both at home and abroad. He resents Signor Berlusconi's jibe that he "invented" Signor Dini. "Actually he had difficulty persuading me to leave the Bank of Italy to

join him," he said. "But I wanted to help to open up a new era of free-market enterprise, take Italy into Europe and get public finances in order. When the Berlusconi coalition collapsed — not because of my doings. I might add — he suggested my name and agreed to a non-party government. But then he had second thoughts, and has been irresponsibly trying to bring me down ever since, whereas the Left has supported me."

ITALIAN ELECTIONS



Signor Dini said that the Right had tried to "cut him down to size. They felt, maybe this guy is growing too big, too visible, too credible, we must trim his wings." Instead he decided in February to form a party, Rinnovamento Italiana (Italian Renewal), with the help of his flamboyant wife, Donatella.

Signor Dini believes that he can attract a sufficient number of moderate votes to be a force within the Centre Left, which is "better placed to govern Italy than the Centre Right". He declined to say whether he hoped to supplant Romano

Prodi, the lacklustre economics professor who is the Centre Left's candidate for Prime Minister.

Signor Dini, who chaired the European Union's Turin summit which opened the Maastricht review conference, will chair the June EU summit in Florence, his home town. He claimed his economic policies had helped Italy to move closer to the criteria for a single currency, by reducing inflation and the budget deficit. The Verona meeting of EU Finance Ministers in ten days would help to define a "mechanism" for ensuring a stable currency relationship between countries inside monetary union and those outside.

But Italy still hoped to be in at the beginning, since "a monetary union that does not include two or three of the larger countries, such as Italy, will not be very significant ... A judgment will have to be made as to whether it is viable or useful to have too small a union, or whether it might be better to wait for a larger union."

Signor Dini said that the Florence summit would also discuss unemployment, cross-frontier crime, enlargement, and moves toward EU majority voting in all areas, including foreign and defence policy. "I doubt whether unanimity will be required even in foreign policy," Signor Dini said. "It would not be feasible for a country to be developed if one country was in a position to block an action in the field of foreign policy or defence."



Miroslav Siljegovic and his wife Colette with a Hemingway painting at their new cafe

New chapter opens for literary lions' Paris watering-hole

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

ONE of the most famous cafes in Paris, the Closierie des Lilas, the Left Bank haunt of such literary icons as Guillaume Apollinaire, Andre Gide, Ernest Hemingway and Paul Verlaine, was sold this week by the family who have run it for generations.

The new owner is Miroslav Siljegovic, a businessman from Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Closierie des Lilas is the second Paris landmark to be snapped up by Mr Siljegovic, who, 14 years ago, bought the Cafe de Flore, its long-time

rival and the preferred watering-hole of Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir.

The Closierie des Lilas opened in 1847 on the site of the ancient Carthusian convent on the Rue d'Enfer — literally Hell Street. According to popular legend, the proprietor, Bullier, planted a thousand lilacs in the gardens.

The wine was cheap and on spring evenings students and aspiring poets gathered in the perfumed air to waltz the night away and sing along to

the strains of the most popular song of the moment, *Je n'aime pas les haricots* (I don't like green beans).

Bullier later renamed the popular dance hall after himself and moved his cafe across the street into a decaying stagecoach post. Its popularity has often been attributed to its location at the crossroads between Montparnasse and the Latin Quarter — a convenient meeting point for artists and philosophers from both districts. That it was then almost out in the country was an added attraction.

At the turn of the century, the Closierie des Lilas was the rallying point for the supporters of Dreyfus, while the *anti-dreyfusards* set up camp in the nearby Cafe de Flore, sparking the enduring rivalry.

The cafe's reputation spread: Lenin played chess on the terrace, Picasso, Léger and Brassens became regulars. After the Second World War, the cafe lost some of its gaiety. The Milan family who took over in 1952 introduced poetry readings and created literary prizes, endearing the Closierie des Lilas again to intellectuals and the Paris *beau monde*. More recent habitués included the actress Romy Schneider, the Shah of Iran, Michel Rocard, the former French Prime Minister, and Lionel Jospin, the new Socialist leader.

Hemingway immortalised the cafe in his tribute to Paris, painting an affectionate portrait of two waiters forced to wear American-style white jackets and shave off lovingly cultivated handlebar moustaches when the cafe changed hands in the 1920s.

Mr Siljegovic, who has bought the cafe for Fr25 million (£3.4 million), said yesterday that he had no plans to force such an indignity on his staff, saying: "I love this place. It makes me happy. I will not change a thing."

Former minister guilty of fraud

FROM REUTERS IN BRUSSELS

BELGIUM'S highest court yesterday found Guy Coeme, the former Defence Minister, and seven associates guilty of fraud and abuse of public office.

The case, the first time since 1865 that a former minister has been tried for abuse in office, was the first of several expected to reveal the scale of political corruption in Belgium in the late 1980s.

Coeme was given a two-year suspended jail sentence and ordered to repay sums he received illegally from Inusop, a political research company at the centre of the scandal.

He was also stripped of his civil and political rights for five years, throwing into question his position as a member of parliament and as Mayor of Waremmme.

Camille Javeau, an Inusop director, received a two-year sentence, suspended for one year. He was also ordered to repay funds he obtained from Inusop by falsifying bills, travel and other expenses. The other defendants received suspended sentences ranging from six months to one year.

The trial, which took place after a five-year inquiry, is expected to be followed by others dealing with allegedly corrupt politicians in the late 1980s.

FREE FLYMO FOOTBALL

plus

THE OPPORTUNITY TO SCORE UP TO

£50 CASHBACK

WHEN YOU BUY A FLYMO LAWNMOWER



This Easter you can claim a free football when you buy selected Flymo lawnmowers. PLUS you will receive up to £50 cashback if England or Scotland win the European Football Championship. So there's another good reason to cheer on the home teams. Pick up a leaflet at your nearest DIY or gardening outlet, we're giving those away free too!

Flymo

EASIER BY DESIGN

*OFFER APPLIES TO: MICRO COMPACT 30 AND 300 PLUS; TURBO COMPACT 300 AND 350; VENTURER TURBO 300 AND 350 PURCHASED BETWEEN 05.4.96 AND 02.5.96.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROMOTION VISIT YOUR LOCAL FLYMO STOCKIST OR CALL FREE ON 0800 10 20 96.

The Government sale of Railtrack shares is underway. To register for information, you simply need to call one of the many banks, building societies, stockbrokers or other financial intermediaries offering a Share Shop service. Look out for the list with telephone numbers appearing in this paper. Once you have registered, your Share Shop will send you further information about Railtrack and the Offer.



REGISTER AT A SHARE SHOP

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND APPROVED BY SEC. WARBURG, A DIVISION OF SWISS BANK CORPORATION, REGULATED IN THE UK BY SFA. THE VALUE OF SHARES CAN FLUCTUATE. ANY APPLICATION FOR SHARES SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PROSPECTUS ALONE. FOR ADVICE CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL ADVISER.

Experts dismiss 'Jesus tomb' find by television crew

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AS THOUSANDS of Christians yesterday thronged the Via Dolorosa, the route many believe Jesus took to his crucifixion, there was a BBC television crew in Jerusalem for a BBC television claim to be broadcast tomorrow night that the final resting place of the bones of Christ may have been found.

The Easter Sunday edition of *Heart of the Matter*, presented by Joan Bakewell, will attempt to attribute more than coincidence to the discovery in 1980 of a series of ossuaries from a tomb near Jerusalem that allegedly bear the names Joseph, Mary and Jesus.

Claims by the programme's production team, which stumbled across the discovery weeks before its Easter edition about the Resurrection was to be broadcast, have provoked incredulity among experts.

L. Y. Rahmani, an archaeologist who has catalogued almost all the 1,000 ossuaries found in Israel, said the BBC's conclusions were absurd. The names Joseph, Mary and Je-

sus were common in antiquity, he said, and some ten ossuaries bearing the name of Jesus in either Hebrew or Greek have been found. Variations of Miriam, from which Mary is derived, and Joseph are far more common.

"The fact that in this case you have the combination of names in the same tomb is simply a matter of statistics," said the former curator of the Antiquities Authority in whose warehouse the empty ossuaries were found and put on show for the press this week.

Another ossuary in the tomb unearthed in 1980 and reported at the time in *Archaeological News* with no attempt to link it to the Bible, bears the name of Yehuda bar Yeshua, or Judah son of Jesus. The BBC programme raises the possibility that a second ossuary in the tomb inscribed with a Greek version of Miriam, contained the bones of Mary Magdalene, the fallen woman saved by Jesus, who was one of the principal witnesses of the Resurrection. "Well, it is a

nice news story for Easter," said Moshe Negel, spokesman for the Antiquities Authority, which has been astonished at those in the BBC apparently willing to encourage belief in claims which, if true, would undermine 2,000 years of the Christian religion.

"But the archaeological evidence shows that the chances of these being the actual burials of the Holy Family are almost nil."

Many biblical experts in Jerusalem believe that the world should have been alerted to the tendentious approach of the programme from an alleged overexcited remark by the British researcher, Chris Mann, who spotted the ossuaries in the shelves of the warehouse and commented: "I felt like the balls of the national lottery coming up one by one."

Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, professor of New Testament at the Jerusalem Ecole Biblique, dismissed the BBC claim as fanciful. "They are all very common, perhaps the most common names," Father O'Connor said. "It would be a statistical abnormality if you do not find them in conjunction at some point."

He added that most scholars believe that the biblical Joseph was buried in Galilee in what is now northern Israel, while Mary is believed to have been buried in Jerusalem. Catholics and Protestants have different beliefs about the location of the tomb from which they believe Jesus rose on the third day after his burial.

In keeping with Israeli law, the bones found in the caskets now at the centre of controversy were turned over years ago to rabbis who gave them a Jewish burial, and no one in Jerusalem appears to be still alive who might know precisely where they were re-buried.



Joan Bakewell at the tomb near Jerusalem where caskets, allegedly with biblical names, were found



Shinichiro Kaneko screams as a four-inch nail is driven into his palm yesterday

Japanese takes turn on cross

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SAN PEDRO CUTUD, PHILIPPINES

A JAPANESE man who believed it would help to cure a sick relative joined at least a dozen Filipinos who were nailed to crosses yesterday in rituals re-enacting the death of Jesus.

Shinichiro Kaneko, 30, screamed as four-inch nails

were driven through his palms into the wooden cross, which was then lifted to a vertical position. With a crown of barbed wire on his head, he withstood the ordeal under hot sun in San Pedro Cutud, 30 miles north of Manila, for about two minutes until he was taken down and his hands bandaged.

Several thousand villagers and tourists watched as 11

people, including Mr Kaneko, were crucified by attendants dressed as Roman centurions. Ropes supported the participants' weight while on the cross. Most had only their palms nailed.

Throughout the day, scores of bloody penitents walked through the village, beating their bare backs with ropes and splashing spectators with blood. (AP)

How agents won over Unabomber suspect's family

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE BROTHER of Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber suspect, wrestled with his conscience before telling FBI agents of his suspicions. David Kaczynski, 46, a social worker from Schenectady, New York, did not appear to know there was a \$1 million (£650,000) reward for information leading to the bomber's arrest.

Mr Kaczynski, a painfully shy man whose act of fraternal betrayal has cast him into a vortex of media attention, contacted the FBI in January via a lawyer.

Agents needed patience as they gradually persuaded him that family came second to country. The same arguments were used to persuade the suspect's octogenarian mother, Wanda, to allow agents to search the attic of the family home.

A friend spoke of Mr Kaczynski's "great personal integrity" and an FBI source said the younger sibling was "torn, as anyone would be, between doing what is right, and loyalty to his brother... This was not some guy who walked in with information to collect the \$1 million reward."

Mr Kaczynski, also a former country recluse, went to the FBI after he found scribbles by his brother which resembled the anti-technology manifesto of the Unabomber. He was anxious not to besmirch his older brother's name if he was innocent, and asked agents to be gentle.

When the arrest happened, it was conducted without force. Ted Kaczynski tried briefly to retreat inside his cabin, but then surrendered peacefully and talked politely to agents as he was being escorted to jail in Helena, Montana.

Two typewriters found at his cabin were yesterday being tested to see if they are the machines on which the Unabomber's 35,000-word manifesto and various notes

were printed. The list of other items found at the cabin reads like the inventory of a science workshop. It includes pipes of galvanized metal, copper and plastic, batteries and a plastic wire, hacksaw blades, drills, aluminium ingots, lead, silver oxide, potassium chlorate and sodium. There were also books on bomb-making in English and Spanish, which the highly intelligent Mr Kaczynski speaks fluently.

Law enforcers described how agents stalked out Mr Kaczynski's remote cabin for weeks, but it is questionable how successful they were in remaining undetected.

Residents of the small town of Lincoln, Montana, described how, in the weeks leading up to the arrest, they noticed a number of strangers in their midst — men with large jackets, short haircuts, walkie-talkies and a city manner.

They rightly identified them as FBI undercover agents, but presumed they were in Lincoln to monitor the activities of the Sauerkraut Gang, a group of knife-wielding crazies who live in the mountains who were held to be far more dangerous than the eccentric hermit. He visited town once a week to buy tins of Spam from the store and rode back to his cabin on an old black bicycle which had a yellow flag on its handlebars to alert what little traffic Lincoln has to its weaving, wobbling progress down the empty country lanes.

Yesterday Lincoln townsfolk were basking in their fame. Karen Potter, owner of Lincoln's Blackfoot Market general store, recalled that she sometimes tried to strike up conversations with Ted Kaczynski. Once, when he had not been in for a few weeks, she asked where he had been. She was rewarded with a glare that made her understand that "personal questions" would not be welcome.

DOLPHIN FITTED BATHROOMS BANK HOLIDAY SALE

50% OFF ALL BATHROOM SUITES
BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL

PLUS
£150
TRADE-IN
DISCOUNT
for your old
bathroom

PLUS BANK HOLIDAY EXTRA SAVERS

Turbo Spa
£740 NOW £360 SAVE £380

Electric Shower
£499 NOW £99 SAVE £400

Shower Screen
£199 NOW £75 SAVE £124

Gold Plated Taps
£125 NOW £40 SAVE £85

huge reductions on a whole range of superb luxury accessories that makes your new bathroom really special. so call or visit Dolphin today.

With every bathroom suite half price, and nothing to repay until Autumn, now is the perfect time to transform your bathroom. There are

BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS FROM INSPIRATION TO INSTALLATION

Dolphin
FITTED BATHROOMS

SHOWROOM OPENING TIMES: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10.00AM TO 5.30PM. SATURDAY 9.00AM TO 5.30PM. SUNDAY 10.00AM TO 4.00PM.

VISIT A SHOWROOM OR PHONE FREE 0800 626717

Britain urged to make more use of Commonwealth ties

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is not taking full economic advantage of the Commonwealth, especially in Asia and emerging markets, and the Government and the secretariat should do more to revive it and bolster its values.

That is the main conclusion of a critical parliamentary report drawn up after a year of hearings and evidence to the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MPs accuse the Government of neglecting the Commonwealth, politically and economically, threatening weaker members with development aid cuts, and failing to keep up with changes in the 53-nation body, members of which belong to 22 different regional alliances.

"The old Commonwealth ties could become, for the United Kingdom, the new Commonwealth opportunities," the report says. It expresses astonishment that better use is not made of connections and the integration of a global network of communications and friendship.

"The envy of our trading partners." This is especially true of new business openings. "We are not satisfied that the Commonwealth link in trade development with emerging markets is being developed as fully as it might," the I MPs say. The Department of Trade and Industry should set up a

special officer to identify such opportunities.

The MPs also highlight the geographic and political breadth of the Commonwealth which, they say, is becoming a standard-bearer of democracy, good government and human rights. They praise the Commonwealth commitments to rights and good government made at the 1991 Harare summit, but say those need amplifying to be effective. The secretariat should be revamped to make it more able to secure greater compliance with the Harare principles.

"What was once a 'club' of countries all too ready both to criticise and to make demands on the former imperial power is now a network with quite different interests and ambitions," David Howell, the committee chairman, said. This offered vast potential that Britain should develop imaginatively.

Recent Overseas Development Administration budget cuts are condemned, and blame for Britain's lukewarm attitude is laid largely at the door of the Foreign Office.

The MPs are cautious about expanding membership. They note that there was controversy over the human rights record of Cameroon, and suggest that admitting Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, set an awkward precedent.

Malaria epidemic kills 55 in South Africa

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AN epidemic of malaria sweeping through low-altitude areas of South Africa has claimed at least 55 lives, more than five times as many as last year, and infected more than 5,000 people since the beginning of January.

According to the Health Ministry officials the worst could yet be to come as April and May are peak months for the disease.

The outbreak was forecast during disastrous floods that ended crippling drought during January and February in large parts of the country. There is increasing concern in medical circles that some of the strains now being detected appear to be resistant to the chloroquine-based anti-ma-

laria pills that are available without prescription in South Africa.

The malaria-carrying mosquito, *Anopheles arabiensis*, does not occur in high areas of the country, which include the Johannesburg region, nor along the southwestern Cape Coast, the most popular tourist destination. Nevertheless, tourists are being warned to take a course of anti-malaria drugs, particularly if they visit the Kruger National Park, the worst source of the outbreak.

Death toll: A meningitis epidemic sweeping parts of West Africa has killed 2,045 people in the landlocked state of Burkina Faso, health officials said. (Reuters)

EU envoy caught in gunfire

Kismayu, Somalia: Emma Bonino, the European Union's Commissioner for European Affairs, was caught up in gunfire yesterday, during a visit to this Somali port. Shooting by militiamen forced her convoy to stop on the airport road as she drove into the town, and later as she prepared to leave.

The delegation, wearing flak-jackets, rushed to their Belgian Air Force Hercules C130, and British pilot Mark Baines made a swift take-off. (Reuters/AFP)

Electric cable kills 14 on bus

Hyderabad: Fourteen people who were riding on top of a bus were electrocuted when the vehicle hit high-tension cables in southern India. Police said the passengers died after bicycles on top of the bus came into contact with the wires. The dead included four women and four children, among them a six-month-old baby. (Reuters)

Girl of 10 gives birth in Brazil

Brasilia: A ten-year-old Brazilian girl, raped by a neighbour in the southwestern city of Rondonopolis, has given birth by Caesarean section to a girl who will be given up for adoption, the *Estado de São Paulo* newspaper reported. The neighbour, 47, has been charged by police. (Reuters)

Scientist held on child sex charge

Washington: A Nobel prize winner and one of America's most prominent scientists has been arrested on charges that he molested one of more than 50 children he had "adopted" from Micronesia and New Guinea (Tom Rhodes writes). Daniel Gajdusek, 72, is being held on £650,000 bail.

Pray as you earn

Chisinau: Hard-up Moldovan monks at the ancient Neamts monastery are being paid by a leading financial group to pray for profits as the former Soviet republic faces an economic crisis. (Reuters)



MELVYN MARCKUS 24

Our City Editor
on the
evolution of BTRMonday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

WORKING WEEK 25

The man charged
with giving
the BT line

SPORT 36-44

Can England
dance to
Botham's tune?THE HIDDEN
ASSETS AT
COUTTS BANK
Page 25

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY APRIL 6 1996

Lloyd's must increase settlement, says report

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S of London must improve the terms of its £2.8 billion settlement offer to names if an ambitious blueprint for the future is to succeed, an independent report has concluded. But the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan remains the best solution available to the market.

No section of the Lloyd's community would benefit if Lloyd's was to cease to carry on business, according to the report by Slaughter and May, the law firm. True finality, in the sense of capping liabilities to policyholders, cannot be achieved by R&R, but it would at least allow some form of line to be drawn with the past.

The firm acted as adviser to the Validation Steering Group

(VSG), set up to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the R&R programme. Controversy has erupted over the refusal by Alan Porter, one of the three VSG members, to endorse the report, which has the approval of Sir David Beriman and Damon de Laszlo, his co-members. Mr Porter is critical of the report's lack of financial analysis.

Slaughter and May concedes that it has not considered the calculations or figures that underpin R&R. It does not comment on any financial aspects of R&R or Equitas, the proposed new reinsurance company designed to take on liabilities for 1992 and earlier. It concludes that Equitas provides the best form of finality for names, even though the

possibility that it might fail cannot be ruled out.

The report accepts that many names are suspicious about the circumstances in which they were encouraged to join Lloyd's. It concludes, however, that it is "most unlikely" that allegations of fraud at Lloyd's, if proved, would enable names to avoid their underwriting liabilities.

The report supports the view that an independent inquiry into Lloyd's would not be helpful at this stage. It says: "We recognise that many names have been seriously damaged by what has happened at Lloyd's and remain suspicious about the circumstances in which this has occurred. However, we think it unlikely that an inquiry into the past will

contribute materially to solutions in the present."

There is no obvious alternative to R&R which would enable Lloyd's to continue as at present. If Lloyd's were to cease to carry on business, either through liquidation, run-off, or intervention by the Department of Trade and Industry, no section of the Lloyd's community is likely to be better off.

Slaughter and May says names will ultimately have to make up their own minds on R&R. It adds: "Many names are outraged by what has happened in Lloyd's. There is little doubt that names occupy the moral high-ground. However, names' fundamental problem is that they cannot reasonably expect to escape

from their underwriting liabilities. All that some of them have are claims for damages against people with limited funds, many of whom are other names, together with a variety of ingenious defences. These forces have been deployed with considerable vigour and skill and have succeeded in bringing Lloyd's to its present position."

The report cautions: "There will undoubtedly be some names who remain so angry that they do not care whether Lloyd's survives or not. This is why more than £2.8 billion may be required for the R&R proposals to achieve acceptance."

Lloyd's welcomed the report, and said negotiations aimed at improving its settlement offer were continuing.

Surge in US jobs hits bond prices

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

ANOTHER healthy rise in American jobs yesterday sent the Treasury bond market into a bout of heavy selling again and appeared to rule out any further cuts in US interest rates in the short term.

The economy created 140,000 new jobs in the non-farm sector in March, many more than Wall Street economists had been expecting. This followed a rise of 624,000 jobs in February, revised from last month's initial estimate of 705,000 which had sent the Dow Jones industrial average into a 171 point-plunge and wiped three full points off bond prices.

A handful of dealers were at their desks in the City of London yesterday to monitor events, the first time they have been expected to work on Good Friday.

The US unemployment rate edged up to 5.6 per cent from 5.5 per cent in February, the Labour Department said.

Bond investors worried about rapid employment creation leading to higher prices, had been banking on yesterday's figures to show a fall in jobs, so reversing some of February's surge. However, the fact that a large number of jobs were created once again appeared to confirm that the US economy is on a healthy growth path and does not need any additional stimulus from lower rates.

The US bond market, the only big financial market to open yesterday, was reckoning that the next move in US rates might now be upwards. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell by one point in the first minute of trading.

The market steadied slightly but selling then began again, sending the long bond down another point. Traders are braced for a sharp fall on the stock market. The long bond yield rose to 6.8 per cent.

WEEKEND MONEY



29
Marianne Curphey
on the building
society gamble

STOCK MARKETS

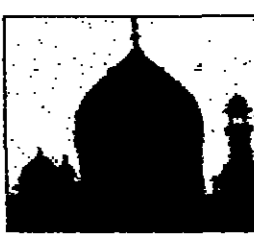
28
One expert's
tips for
Wall Street



32
Taking the
plunge into
personal plans

INVESTMENT

33
Trusts full
of Eastern
promise



HEALTH CARE



35
What is missing
from your critical
illness policy?

Virgin buying Belgian airline

By Martin Barrow

RICHARD BRANSON has taken a significant step in developing a substantial European airline with an agreement to acquire Belgium's second largest carrier for £382 million.

Mr Branson's Virgin Group yesterday signed a final agreement to buy 90 per cent of EuroBelgian Airlines (EBA), with an option to acquire the remaining 10 per cent.

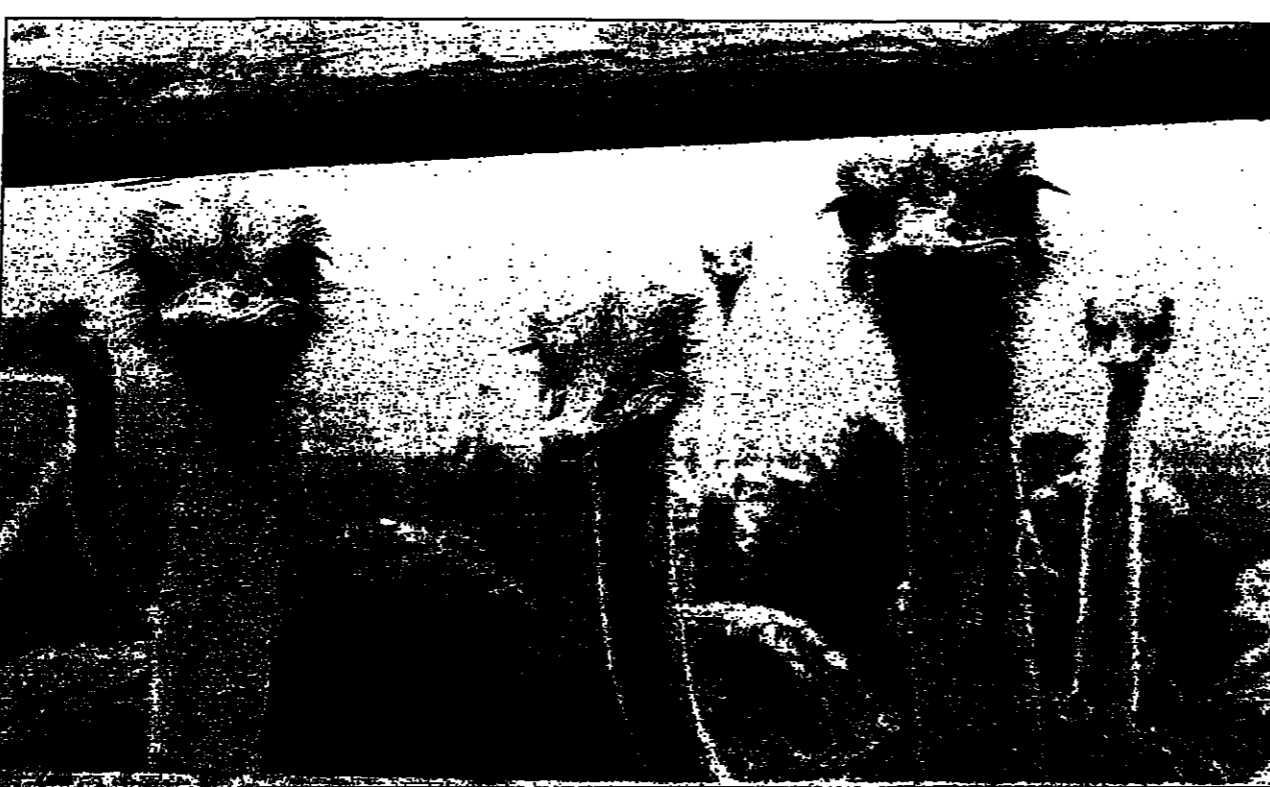
The deal is likely to be completed by the end of the month, after which the Virgin colours will replace the EBA livery. Although about half of EBA's business is charter, the airline has four scheduled services out of Brussels. Virgin plans to double the number of scheduled routes within 18 months.

Unlike many European airlines, EBA, established only four years ago, is profitable, earning £8 million before tax last year after pioneering the concept of ticketless travel in the Benelux countries. It now has 12 Boeing 737s and has ordered another two. Last year it transported 1.3 million passengers, compared with the five million passengers flown by Sabena, Belgium's national carrier.

The vendors of EBA are City Hotels, a Belgian company, and NEI, a holding company based in Luxembourg acting on behalf of a group of private investors.

The decision to acquire an airline in continental Europe in part reflects Virgin's frustration at its inability to gain more slots at Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

It also coincides with the recent announcement that the Virgin-backed London and Continental Railways was successful in bidding for the £3 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link and operate Eurostar trains to Paris and Brussels.



Investors are left wondering whether the bird in the field will be worth the money they have paid out

International hunt begins for Ostrich Farming assets

By Karen Zagor and Robert Miller

AN international investigation to trace assets belonging to the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC) is believed to be underway. The inquiry is thought to involve authorities in Britain and Belgium.

Based in Nottingham, the company attracted millions of pounds from several thousand investors by promising minimum annual returns of 51.6 per cent for five years. It is now the subject of a winding-up petition, presented this week by the Department of Trade and Industry.

OFC's managing director is Brian Ketchell, the entrepreneur who previously ran Video Magic, a video rental chain that went into administration in 1991. OFC had raised more than £5 million by the end of December last year and cheques continued to roll in over the weeks that followed.

DTI investigators must now try to locate company assets that could be scattered around the world. Inquiries into OFC indicate that links were being established in the Netherlands and Canada.

among other countries, in an effort to raise money. OFC's glossy brochures claimed that the birds were being farmed in Belgium and that the company is represented in Malaysia, Cyprus and Bahrain.

The Official Receiver, appointed provisional liquidator at the request of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has been called in to protect assets and financial records until the winding-up petition is heard on May 8.



OFC headquarters in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

Regulators have been concerned for several months. The Securities and Investment Board (SIB) launched its own investigation but passed the case on to the DTI. The Advertising Standards Authority is investigating OFC advertisements.

OFC's investors are not protected by City regulators because ostriches are not considered financial products. Nor are the investors entitled to payments from the Investors Compensation Scheme should the business collapse.

They now fear that they may lose their money, while some are upset that the DTI has not explained why it has applied for the winding-up order. Andrew Cusack, an OFC investor, said: "I've spoken to several owners who feel that there appears to be no financial problems."

Gary Hollaway, another investor, says he asked Dum & Bradstreet for information on OFC last year, before sending payment. "They told me that the company had no history of problems at the time and was a member of a number of organisations including the Ostrich Sales and Marketing Corporation and the Ostrich Breeding Corporation." Mr Ketchell is a director of both.

Meanwhile, ostrich farming seems set to become a trendy investment, partly because the meat is low in calories and cholesterol. The "mad cow" scare may also make ostrich more popular; some schools are said to be serving ostrich burgers.

There is also a widening of the lower 20 pence band by £700 to £3,900. The first effects of these adjustments will be felt in next month's pay packets.

Other changes, announced in the November Budget but which come into force today, include a 5p reduction to 20p for basic rate taxpayers on their savings; above inflation increases in personal allowance; a £1,200 increase in the top rate threshold to £25,500; a rise in the basic allowance by £240 to £3,765 and an increase in the married couples' allowance by £70 to £1,790.

But it is not all good news. Taxpayers should watch out for self-assessment, which now comes into effect. They are now under a legal obligation to keep all relevant records to complete their own tax returns. There is a penalty of up to £3,000 for each year of failing to maintain proper records — more than six times what the Government says it is giving back in tax today.

Tax rate back to war-time basic

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FROM today, tax is no longer the dirtiest word in the Government's public relations lexicon. After successive years of punitive tax rises under the chancellorships of Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke, together representing the largest tax increase in the post-war period, taxes actually fall today.

The Government will be hoping that this long anticipated event will mark a rebirth of its electoral fortunes. Mr

Clarke, in ebullient mood on the by-election campaign in Staffordshire South East last week, said that tax cuts would help create a tide of economic optimism that would sweep the Conservatives back into power. Today's tax cuts were, he said, the first big event for households economically this year.

The highlight of a clutch of tax changes, which the Government claims will help to make the average family £9 a week, or £450 a year, better off, is a 1p reduction in the basic rate of income tax to 24p. This is not only the

first time that the basic rate has fallen since 1988 but it is also the lowest level for the basic rate since the Second World War.

Other changes, announced in the November Budget but which come into force today, include a 5p reduction to 20p for basic rate taxpayers on their savings; above inflation increases in personal allowance; a £1,200 increase in the top rate threshold to £25,500; a rise in the basic allowance by £240 to £3,765 and an increase in the married couples' allowance by £70 to £1,790.

There is also a widening of the lower 20 pence band by £700 to £3,900. The first effects of these adjustments will be felt in next month's pay packets.

But it is not all good news. Taxpayers should watch out for self-assessment, which now comes into effect. They are now under a legal obligation to keep all relevant records to complete their own tax returns. There is a penalty of up to £3,000 for each year of failing to maintain proper records — more than six times what the Government says it is giving back in tax today.

The Mercury Income Fund

471% growth since launch in 1984*

2% discount until 30.4.96†

The Mercury Income Fund's performance record since launch in 1984 speaks for itself, but there's a lot more we could tell you:

- Average annual return of 15.5%*
- Net income has risen each and every year†
- More than your original investment back in income alone
- \$10,000 grew into \$34,940 — even after taking the income**

To mark the start of the new tax year, we're offering a 2% discount on lump sum investments of \$6,000 or more made before 30th April 1996. This offer includes investments made via the Mercury PEP, which offers tax free returns.

For further information, contact your financial adviser, or call Mercury free on 0800 882 884 quoting the reference number below. Or send off the coupon.

☎ Freephone 0800 882 884

To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Investment Services Ltd, FREEPOST NE4330, London EC4B 4DQ. Please send me details of the Mercury Income Fund.

Surname _____

First name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

MERCURY
ASSET MANAGEMENT

BRITAIN'S LEADING INVESTMENT HOUSE

*Based on net income (reinvested), to 31st April 1996. 5-year performance: 471% (annualised: 11.3%). †Net income to April each year from an investment of £10,000 on 15th March 1984. **Capital only performance: £5,281 - £4,885 - £58.45. 5-year capital only performance: +81%. All figures are based on selling prices and are sourced: Mercury Fund Managers. ‡2% discount on the offer price of units in the Fund. The Mercury Income Fund is managed by Mercury Asset Management plc (regulated by the FSA). It invests in the Mercury Income Fund, a unit trust managed by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by the FSA and the Personal Investment Authority), which is the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management plc and a member of the Mercury Marketing Group. § This advertisement is issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority) which represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ¶ Remember that the value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount you invest. ** Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. †† The tax treatment of PEPs may be changed by future legislation. ‡‡ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded. §§ We will not disclose any of your details outside Mercury, its associated companies and agents. We may write to tell you about other Group products; if you would prefer not to receive such details, please write to us.

Magic Jackson and the BTR analysts

Did you happen to notice BTR's 1995 results last month? Not for the first time, the figures outstripped analysts' expectations. Sales in respect of ongoing operations rose 9 per cent to £9 billion, while pre-tax profits increased 6 per cent to £1.5 billion. Earnings rose 10 per cent to £960 million, reflected in a 9 per cent increase in the dividend distribution to 16.075p.

BTR, it may be recalled, is one of the UK's management success stories. It is important to recall this because, every now and again, City analysts lose some of the few marbles they possess, argue that BTR is approaching some form of corporate crossroads and call for the enterprise to be "normalised". The analysts who call for BTR to be normalised are closely related to those who habitually urge GEC to "give back" its cash resources to shareholders. This phrase presupposes that the cash was originally under the direct control of fund managers.

It was in the late Sixties, that Sir

Owen Green emerged as managing director of BTR Leyland Industries, chaired by Sir David Nicholson, and, working alongside Norman Ireland, Don Tapley and the late John Cahill, founded an industrial manufacturing conglomerate currently capitalised at some £12.4 billion. The blueprint heralded the development of BTR's legendary system of financial controls, harnessed to a comprehensive 12-month profit plan.

Talk of a BTR crossroads, from the share-shuffling classes, invariably accompanies the appointment of a new chief executive. Enter, at the turn of the year, Ian Strachan, the former deputy chief executive of RTZ, who was headhunted out of Exxon in 1987. Strachan, the first "outsider" to spearhead BTR, has (wisely) made few pronouncements to date, although the message that accompanied 1995's "prelims" was that the company is set to accelerate its withdrawal from non-manufacturing operations.

Then again, talk of a crossroads was equally rife when Alan Jack-

son, Strachan's predecessor, succeeded Cahill as chief executive in 1991. Under Cahill, BTR had launched a £1 billion takeover bid for Norton, an international abrasives combine based in New England. In the event, Norton opted for the lucrative embraces of a French white knight. This was perceived by analysts as a setback for BTR, as was the company's decision in 1987 to abandon its £1.2 billion bid for Pilkington, the St Helens-based glass multinational. Earlier acquisitions included the fiercely contested bid for Thomas Tilling, an old-fashioned conglomerate, in 1983, followed by the £100 million purchase of Dunlop two years later.

It was Green, as chairman, who wooed Jackson, head of Nylex, BTR's 64 per cent owned Australian offshoot, into the UK hotseat. In the space of 13 years, Jackson, who joined Hopkins Odlum, a minor BTR subsidiary, in 1977, expanded this obscure hose and belting manufacturer into Nylex, a business empire that



MELVYN MARCKUS

was dubbed "Jackson's Juggernaut". The wheels of the juggernaut were amply oiled when Nylex, in partnership with the Pratt enterprise, won a bitter £1.6 billion battle for control of ACI International, a sprawling conglomerate, in 1988. A spiral in pre-tax profits from £527,000 to £825 million brought Nylex, a major contributor to BTR's growth during the late Eighties, a

market capitalisation of some A\$6 billion.

Laden down with Australian Businessman of the Year awards, Jackson, as chief executive of BTR, let it be known that the company intended to focus on industrial manufacturing operations, rather than distribution. He also let it be known that a greater emphasis would be placed on global operations. Several analysts (whose achievements during 1977 to 1990 had not won any noteworthy awards) adopted a sceptical view. It was Jackson who appointed Kathleen O'Donovan, a partner at Ernst & Young, BTR's auditors, finance director in succession to Chris Bull. Even the analysts (given a period of time) applauded Jackson's contribution to petticoat power.

A near-£200 million takeover bid for Rockware, the UK's largest manufacturer of glass containers, complemented BTR Nylex's operations and Jackson's global strategy, but was not the mega-bid that analysts craved for. That came in

September 1991, when BTR launched a £1.4 billion foray for Hawker Siddeley. A weak defence on the part of Hawker, combined with a tweak in BTR's terms to £1.5 billion, brought landslide acceptance. The acquisition of Hawker significantly enlarged BTR's industrial manufacturing operations and provided a foundation for significant bolt-on expansion. BTR subsequently moved into mainland China, establishing two major glass bottling operations, and underlined its faith in the Asia Pacific region last year with a £2 billion bid for the outstanding 30 per cent of BTR Nylex. This valued the Jackson Juggernaut at close on A\$12 billion.

In the space of six years, BTR's sales have risen 45 per cent to £9.7 billion, while profit before tax and interest has increased 55 per cent to £1.6 billion. Earnings have soared 79 per cent to £960 million, while earnings per share, at 26p, and dividend per share, at 14.69p, are up 41 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively. Acquisition costs be-

tween 1991 and 1995 amounted to some £6.2 billion, compared with disposal proceeds of some £1.5 billion.

Once upon a time, non-executive directors of BTR were made up entirely of former executives. Unfortunately, to my way of thinking, aspects of BTR's culture are changing, witness the appointment of the "outsider" Jeremy Marshall, chief executive of De La Rue, as a non-executive director. When Norman Ireland retires as chairman next month, he will be succeeded by Elwyn Eilledge. Bearing in mind that Eilledge is the former senior partner of Ernst & Young International, this more or less keeps things in the family.

What Strachan must resist is the temptation to bow to calls to "normalise" BTR. Should BTR be "normalised", it would presumably turn into a run-of-the-mill entity with mediocre management. No one could accuse the likes of Green or Jackson of mediocrity, even the analysts that they both had so little time for.

Russians become Fokker's last hope as Koreans quit

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

SAMSUNG AEROSPACE, of Korea, has abandoned talks aimed at a takeover of Fokker, the collapsed Dutch regional planemaker. Talks about Fokker with Saab, the Swedish manufacturer of regional turbo-prop aircraft, are also understood to have collapsed.

The withdrawal of the Koreans and the Swedes leaves two Russian planemakers, Tupolev and Yakovlev, as apparently the last hope of rescuing Fokker, which, with 6,600 staff, was one of the leading manufacturing employers in The Netherlands. Bombardier, of Canada, which vies with Aero International Regional, a marketing company embracing British Aerospace, to be the world's leading regional aircraft builder, has already viewed the Fokker books and walked away.

The continued difficulty in finding a rescuer for Fokker is bad news for employees of Short Brothers, the Belfast

subsidiary of Bombardier. Short Brothers has already announced plans to shed 1,000 workers involved in making wings for Fokker's 70-seat F70 jet and 108-seat F100.

A Fokker spokesman said that talks with Tupolev and Yakovlev were continuing. "The receivers still have a number of questions for the Russians to answer," he said. "The receivers also want to see some guarantees on the financial side."

According to Fokker, it may be many weeks before it is clear whether the Russian planemakers will take over blueprints and tooling needed to build Fokker aircraft.

Any purchaser would also have to shoulder liabilities associated with supporting the existing fleet around the world. Chief among these is the role of design authority, ensuring the continued airworthiness of the aircraft to the satisfaction of

aviation authorities. If funding for those costs could be assured, perhaps by the Dutch Government, the business of supplying spares for aircraft in use by airlines and providing maintenance and refurbishment could be profitable.

The Dutch authorities face pressure from several carriers to ensure continuing support for planes built by Fokker, one of the world's oldest aircraft makers. American Airlines, the largest Fokker operator with 75 F100 jets, and USAir, with 55 F28s, are believed to be pressing for a speedy solution that underwrites the long-term future of their fleets.

Residual values of existing Fokker jets, each costing more than \$20 million new, have halved since March 15, when the manufacturer was declared insolvent after Daimler-Benz, the German company that controlled Fokker, refused to finance further losses.



Market cracked: Martin O'Connell, of Field, which makes boxes for the £300 million Easter egg market

Former Jaguar executive takes wheel at Reliant

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

A MAN more used to the luxury of a Jaguar has taken over as the new owner of Reliant, maker of the tiny three-wheeled cars.

Jonathan Heynes, who spent 25 years with Jaguar in a number of executive posts, is understood to have paid less than £500,000 for the company which collapsed last year with debts of about £1.5 million. He is the third owner in as many years as the company has staggered through a series of financial crises.

Mr Heynes said he bought Reliant to make money and planned to step up production as soon as possible. Between 50 and 90 of the workforce of 110 will be brought back to start up assembly lines, completing a bank of orders for 50 cars.

He said: "I cannot reveal exactly what I paid for Reliant, but it is fair to say that it was south of £500,000. It took a lot of careful thought before bidding for the company and I

am going into this with the ambition of making Reliant a profit-making company."

Reliant was one of the last independent British carmakers, but survival has proved tough in a world which has moved on from the days when an economical three-wheeler, which could be driven on a motorcycle licence, was ideal transport for poorer motorists. Attempts to branch out into sports car manufacturing have largely failed since the demise of the Scimitar brand.

Mr Heynes gave no indication whether he intends to revive plans to introduce an electric version of the three-wheeler, but he said: "We have a good back-up of dealerships and they are totally behind us. We already have one dealership in Europe and will be looking to expand further in that area. Reliant produces a good quality product and there is no reason why it shouldn't be successful again."

Oil prices surge with demand

By Carl Mortished

SEVERE cold weather and unusually low stocks caused a surge in demand for oil in the first quarter. The International Energy Agency has pushed up its estimate of OECD oil demand by 200,000 barrels per day to 42 million bpd.

A sharp rise in demand as the US and Western Europe scramble to increase stocks pushed up oil prices, with Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate prices reaching their highest levels since the Gulf War. High demand from OECD countries offset a small decrease in non-OECD countries, leaving estimates of global demand for the second quarter unchanged at 69.9 million bpd.

The IEA is forecasting a sharp upward trend in non-Opec oil supply for the remainder of the year after production problems in the North Sea.

It's easy to save on your mortgage.

- No arrangement fee • 3% discount
- No valuation fee • No legal fees

Move to Woolwich Direct.

4.25% (4.3% APR)

You'll save on time too. You see, it's easy to move your mortgage to Woolwich Direct. Wherever you are, at home or at work, just pick up the phone and we'll give you a quote instantly for our new Fee Saver Plus Mortgage. So why not spend a few minutes finding out how much extra you could have to spend each month? Call us now quoting ref: TV64

WE'RE STRAIGHT DOWN THE LINE
0645 75 75 75

8.30am - 9.00pm MON - FRI; 9.00am - 3.00pm SAT; 10.00am - 2.00pm SUN
Internet address: woolwich-direct@e-mail.com

WOOLWICH DIRECT

Harland is buoyed by reduced loss

HARLAND & WOLFF, the Belfast shipyard group, hopes to break even this year after reducing losses to £6.8 million in 1995 from £16.9 million in the previous 12 months (Nicholas Watt writes).

The company's hopes of moving out of the red were boosted earlier this week when it won a £100 million order from BP to build the world's largest floating oil production vessel.

A spokesman said: "While the financial performance in 1995 was disappointing, the company is confident that the strategy now embarked upon offers the best opportunity to create a profitable future."

An overspend on two vessels that were built for First Olsen Tankers and a shuttle tanker contributed to last year's loss.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.04	1.88
Austria Sch	15.80	15.40
Belgium Fr	49.44	45.14
Canada \$	1.180	2.020
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.894
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mk	7.54	6.98
France Fr	8.11	7.46
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	385.00	363.00
Hong Kong \$	12.45	11.45
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1700	4.5000
Italy Lira	2494.00	2339.00
Japan Yen	177.50	161.50
Malta	0.591	0.526
Netherlands Gld	2.950	2.450
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.16
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	244.00	229.50
S Africa R	6.75	5.96
Spain Pta	166.50	163.50
Sweden Kr	10.78	9.98
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	113680	106980
USA \$	1.454	1.404

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading Thursday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Cola wars

PEPSI is painting the town blue in its head-on battle with Coca-Cola. Why? Because it believes the threat from own-label products has evaporated. It's back to the good days of marketing hype instead of price cutting.

Tomorrow, The Sunday Times looks back at 100 years of cola wars.

Barclays Bank PLC

REVISED RATES OF INTEREST FOR PERSONAL CUSTOMERS

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The following rates are current as at 6th April 1996. Rates may vary.	Balance £	Gross Rate pa %	Net Rate pa %
<i>Annual income option</i>			
BARCLAYS SELECT A 90 day notice account for savings of £2,000 or more. Interest is paid annually or monthly.	£100,000+	4.90	3.92
	£50,000+	4.70	3.76
	£25,000+	4.45	3.56
	£10,000+	4.40	3.52
<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
CAPITAL ADVANTAGE ACCOUNT A one month notice account for savings of £2,000 or more. Interest is paid quarterly or monthly.	£100,000+	4.15	3.32
	£50,000+	3.95	3.16
	£25,000+	3.80	3.04
	£10,000+	3.70	2.96
<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
HIGHER RATE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT An instant access account for savings of £100 or more. Interest is paid quarterly or monthly.	£25,000+	3.25	2.68
	£10,000+	3.25	2.60
	£5,000+	3.10	2.48
	£1,000+	3.00	2.40
<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
PRIME ACCOUNT A high interest cheque account for balances of £1,000 or more. Interest is paid quarterly.	£25,000+	2.10	1.68
	£10,000+	2.10	1.68
	£5,000+	2.10	1.68
	£1,000+	2.10	1.68
<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
BARCLAYS TESSA A tax exempt savings account, for those aged 18 and over. Minimum opening balance £25. Interest is paid annually.	£25,000+	6.00*	TAX-FREE
	£10,000+	6.00*	TAX-FREE
	£5,000+	6.00*	TAX-FREE
	£1,000+	6.00*	TAX-FREE
<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT A seven day notice account which can be opened with £1. Interest is paid half-yearly.	£1+	0.50	0.40
	£1+	0.50	0.40
	£1+	0.50	0.40
	£1+	0.50	0.40

<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
JUNIOR BARCLAYS PLUS & BARCLAYS PLUS Instant access accounts for children and young people up to 16 years of age. Cash dispenser card for people aged 11 years and over. Interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	3.50	2.80
	£1+	3.50	2.80
	£1+	3.50	2.80
	£1+	3.50	2.80

<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
THE BARCLAYS BANK ACCOUNT The interest bearing personal current account. Credit interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	0.30	0.24
	£1+	0.30	0.24
	£1+	0.30	0.24
	£1+	0.30	0.24

<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
STUDENT ACCOUNT - FURTHER EDUCATION A special version of the Barclays Bank Account for students taking a full-time degree (or equivalent) course. Credit interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	3.50	2.80
	£1+	3.50	2.80
	£1+	3.50	2.80
	£1+	3.50	2.80

<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
STUDENT ACCOUNT - HIGHER EDUCATION A special version of the Barclays Bank Account for students taking a full-time degree (or equivalent) course. Credit interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	2.00	1.60
	£1+	2.00	1.60
	£1+	2.00	1.60
	£1+	2.00	1.60

GROSS RATE - Interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers or subject to the required certification of the rate payable after the deduction of lower rate tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers). Actual Tax Deduction Scheme for Interest (TDS) may vary, the net rate is given for illustration only and has been rounded to two decimal places. This indicates the interest is exempt from income tax, provided all TESSA conditions are met. Full details available on request.

TAX-FREE - Interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers or subject to the required certification of the rate payable after the deduction of lower rate tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers). Actual Tax Deduction Scheme for Interest (TDS) may vary, the net rate is given for illustration only and has been rounded to two decimal places. This indicates the interest is exempt from income tax, provided all TESSA conditions are met. Full details available on request.

Barclays Bank PLC. Reg No. 102616. Registered in England. Registered Office: 125 Old Broad Street, London, EC2P 1JH. Barclays Bank PLC is a member of the Barclays Group of Banks.

A WORKING WEEK FOR: RODGER BROAD

The man charged with giving BT's line

As head of corporate sponsorship and publicity
Rodger Broad gives money away, but it is
no cushy number, as Eric Reguly discovered

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

The poster depicts an elongated tongue about to lick a prickly cactus, and Rodger Broad, BT's head of corporate sponsorship and publicity, doesn't approve. The connotation, he thinks, is overtly sexual. Not that there's anything wrong with such a thing, it's just that he needs convincing that it's relevant in this case.

The poster is an early design for 1997's "BT National Connections", a collaboration between BT and the Royal National Theatre in which the two commission authors to write plays for the country's 200 youth theatres. The effort culminates in the production of the top works at a five-day summer festival at the National.

Suzi Graham-Adriani, producer of youth theatre for the National, and Broad are discussing the poster's design in a drab conference room at BT headquarters near St Paul's. "What's the logic behind the tongue?" Broad asks.

"It's a fantasy," Graham-Adriani says. "A tongue licking a cactus is something daring. We tried every other body part, including a bum, and it didn't work."

Broad has another idea. "What about a kiss? With puckered lips. It suggests warmth and comfort."

Graham-Adriani does not appear entirely convinced, but agrees to have the artist take a crack at the lips concept. Broad is happy. BT is, after all, a good clean family company and elongated tongues don't quite fit the bill.

Rodger Broad is a man of phenomenal energy. The BT National Connections meeting was one of half a dozen meetings he either chaired or attended that day with various arts and charities groups eager, indeed desperate, for the company's financial backing.

BT is one of the largest corporate donors in the land, with a budget of £15 million, equivalent to about half a per cent of the company's domestic annual pre-tax profits. Community and environmental projects, such as swimathons for children's aid and cleaning up rubbish dumps, consume the bulk of that amount, leaving some £1.8 million for arts sponsorships, the really fun bits. Although £1.8 million does not seem enormous, it's enough to make BT the leading non-lottery arts sponsor.

But BT is hardly a corporate Mother

Teresa. It gives nothing away unless there's something in it for BT. The company's name and logo are featured prominently in all sponsorship material, and Broad likes to ensure that he is seen or heard in any associated media coverage. He says: "The days when any company could just give away money without respect to its shareholders are gone. There's a definite trend away from pure charity and toward the idea of mutual benefit for both sides."

BT's goal, one that has become increasingly important as the telecoms market becomes more competitive, is to recruit the next generation of customers. That's why most of the arts sponsorships are directed at young people.

The same concept has been used effectively, for example, by Pepsi and Coca-Cola. With Coke dominating the market, Pepsi's advertising campaigns have been directed at ever younger audiences. The banks are following suit. Research has shown that Britons are loath to change banks. Get them

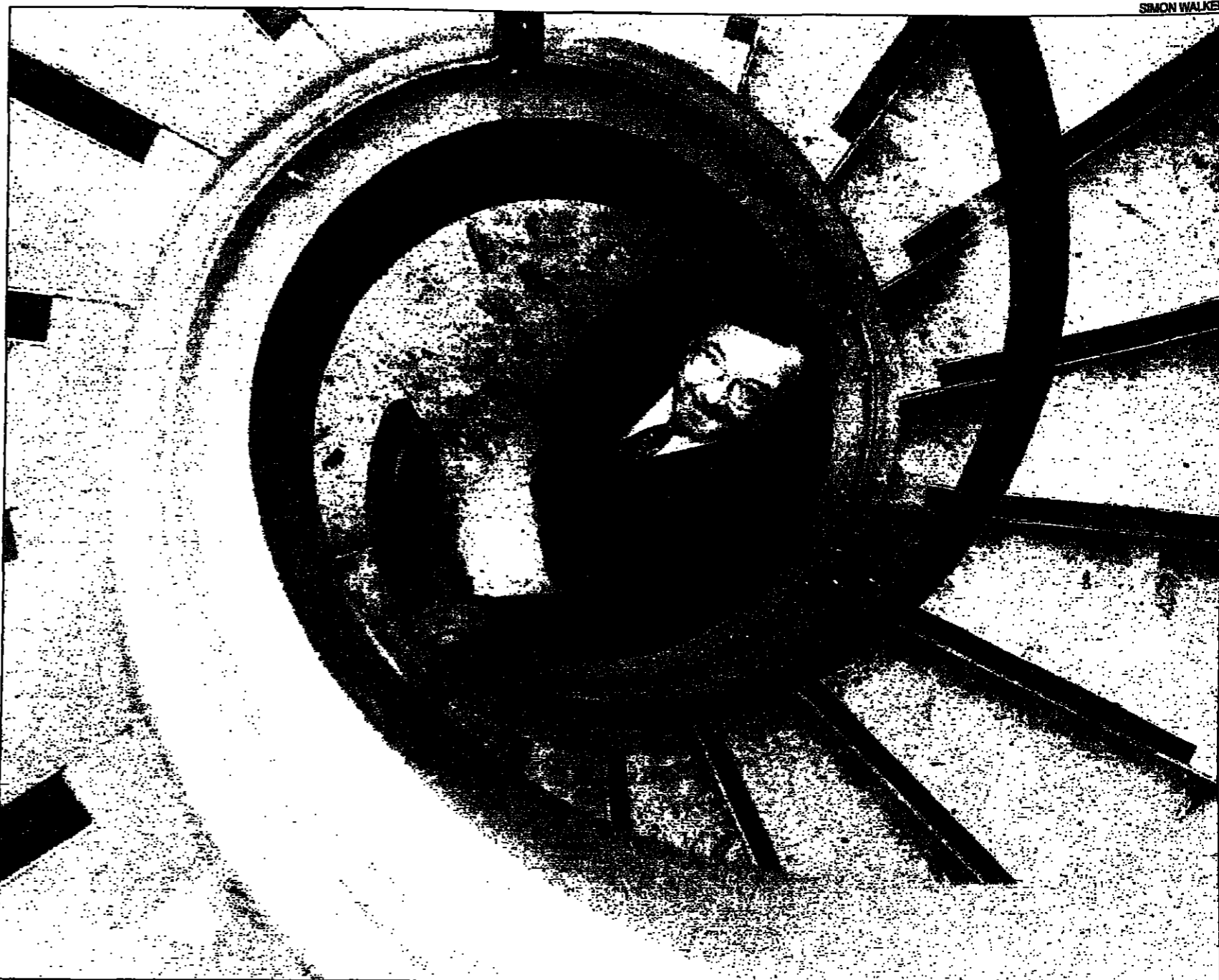
young and you've got a customer for life. Says Broad: "This is all a considered approach to future customers. You develop a reputation that differentiates yourself from your competitors."

Broad, 50, is an unlikely combination of consummate company "lifer", as he puts it, and eccentric. Bearded, 6ft 3in and 16½ stone, he is

a bear of a man who would look at home riding a Harley-Davidson into the American sunset. In fact, his passion is big motorcycles and his dream is to ditch the suit and tour the US on a monster machine, with Edit, his German-born wife, on the back.

He was born and raised in London and spent his early years owning, fixing and racing motorcycles, writing about them in *Motorcycle Gazette*, and playing rugby. Both careers took a turn for the worse after racing and rugby accidents left him with a fractured hip and damaged knees; he has had three knee operations. His last motorcycle race was at the age of 25, although he still roams around on his Honda 750 and a 1959 BSA Gold Star 350. He also finds time to referee rugby games and act as a steward at motorcycle races.

After being sidelined by injuries, he became an electrical engineer at a company whose name he can't even remember. At the age of 30, he joined BT and has been there ever since. Engineering, however, was not him.



Rodger Broad's 14-hour working day typically starts at 6am, when the only distraction is the squawking of George, his bilingual African grey parrot

Gregarious and plain-speaking, he gravitated towards the public relations side of the business and worked his way up through the ranks. Before his appointment as sponsorship manager five years ago, he was head of public relations in BT's Thamesway district.

Broad is a natural PR man. He says: "I'm English, my wife is German and our daughters are called Michele and Nicole. Given the different nationalities, the only way to prevent a major battle with the children's names was to give them French names. I guess that was the PR in me."

He engenders trust partly because he does not ooze the oily charm of some of

his City counterparts. He tends to say what's on his mind and he doesn't look the part. On the day of his meeting with the National Theatre, he was wearing a blue, pin-striped suit offset by bright yellow and blue tie that would not disgrace a bookie's clerk.

More importantly, Broad is no artistic snob. If he were, BT's sponsorship programme might be limited to events at the Royal Albert Hall. Peter Thompson, a theatre and arts publicist who has done some work with Broad, says: "He is not at all elitist. His tastes go from pop groups to ballet. He's got teenage kids, so he's very much in tune with what interests younger people."

Although his job consumes 14 hours of his day, Broad will not let it dominate his life. He loves gardening and animals. In the pet world, his latest affections are two hamsters, a Burmese blue cat called Columbus and an African grey parrot called George. The bird is bilingual. "My wife speaks to it in German. I'll sing *O Tannenbaum* in German and I taught it to say 'Hello Rodger, my name is George.'"

Broad typically begins work at 6am at his home in Guildford, when the squawking George is the only distraction. The first few hours are spent going through faxes and files, and the rest of the day is a flurry of taxis and meetings and receptions.

During a grey Thursday in late March, his first meeting was at GMTV, which sponsors the "Get Up & Give Appeal" for

charities such as the Down's Syndrome Association, the National Schizophrenia Fellowship and the Lady Hoare Trust for Physically Disabled Children. BT's role is not directly financial in this case; it is to provide enough toll-free phone lines so that viewers who want to make donations are not put on hold at their own expense.

Broad agrees that 270 technical people will be made available in the BT Tower to ensure a smooth operation. But he draws the line at a GMTV proposal to have Sir

Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, take part in a related publicity stunt. It would involve celebrities trying to land golf balls on a small bit of green surrounded by water. "Iain doesn't play golf; he plays piano," Broad says.

In the early afternoon, Broad is back at BT's headquarters, where he is chairing a meeting for BT Dance 96. The event, the first of its kind, conducts a countrywide search for 150 young amateur dancers. The 12 best dance groups, including the Peebles Youth Dance from Dalkeith, Lothian, and Riabinoushka from Broadstairs, Kent, strutted their stuff at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London last Sunday. BT wrote a cheque for £80,000 for the event.

Broad and the BT Dance 96 officials

were primarily concerned about media coverage, and Broad extols the virtues of the tabloid press because they are more likely than the broadsheets to run big colour pictures. At one point, someone suggests getting a burger chain to cater for the event. The BSE scare ensures that the idea is quickly dropped.

Then it is straight into the National Theatre meeting and the question of the elongated tongue. It's mid-afternoon and Broad still has several meetings to go. On any given day, he will see organisers from BT Voices for Hospices, BT Bursaries for Young Musicians, the BT Celebration Series and the BT Biennial, among other sponsorships.

Broad says he loves the job but admits that the 14-hour days are starting to catch up with him. Although he has no immediate plans to bale out, he's thinking about another career. "I think in any high-pressure job, you need to consider the next step to save burning out," he says. "It's called self-preservation."

One option is to work as an independent consultant for one or several of the organisations in his sponsorship portfolio. What he really wants to do, though, is leave it all behind for a while. "I'd love to get another motorcycle and I'd love to tour the States with it. My wife would come. She is totally supportive of my job, but might be relieved if I didn't have to do it any more."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Bank balances business with a duty to the past

Sara McConnell finds treasures at
Coutts Bank's 'customer oubliette'

What do you do with a collection of seven teeth? Or a packet of hair? If you are Coutts Bank, you keep them carefully in a vault, along with 600 other more or less valuable treasures deposited at the bank and forgotten by long-dead customers. While other banks lose patience after a hundred years or so and start selling off the unclaimed contents of their strongrooms, Coutts cannot bring itself to do likewise.

It believes the contents of its "customer oubliette", as the collection is known, are not its to sell. Instead, its archivists make strenuous attempts to trace any surviving relatives, by trawling through records at St Catherine's House and advertising in *The Times*. Tracey Earl, Coutts archivist, says: "We will try any avenue."

But many of the treasures date from the 18th century, soon after Coutts was founded as one of the first private

banks. Often they belonged to wealthy merchants working in the expanding trading markets of India or the New World. They sent back silver, jewellery, snuff boxes, papers detailing the intricate workings of their trading companies, letters, medals and uniforms to be taken into the safekeeping of Thomas Coutts, the bank's senior partner and personal friend of many of his customers. Two hundred years later, they are still safe, carefully labelled and wrapped in tissue paper. But the owners died intestate, or they had daughters who married foreigners, making them virtually impossible for the bank to trace.

This is not to say that the archivists know nothing about the lives of the people whose treasures they still

guard. The teeth remain a mystery, admits Ms Earl. But the wealthy, literate men and women who banked with Coutts were prolific letter writers and diary keepers.

One of the most thorough diarists was the original owner of the 1812 guitar inlaid with mother-of-pearl, which is now one of the jewels in the crown of the collection. Christopher d'Monte was the son of a wealthy merchant in Madras, south India, who had connections with Coutts.

After an English education, he defied his father, who wanted him to work in the family business, and set off on a grand tour of Europe in 1815, described in detail in his diary. On his travels through the salons and ballrooms of Europe, he met

Giuliani, the Italian composer and guitarist, who made him a present of the guitar now in Coutts's possession. But he fell ill in Vienna and never made it back to England, dying penniless in Germany. All his possessions, including the guitar and his diary (which ironically includes long lists of cures for various illnesses), were sent back to Coutts. His father never contacted Coutts to ask for his son's belongings back.

Not all Coutts's customers ran their affairs in the way the bank would have liked. Some men-about-town ran up such huge bills with tradesmen that they had to pledge their possessions to settle their debts. Coutts has traced the descendants of the owner of a heavy gold and enamel snuff box worth about £40,000 but found they had no claim on it because it was pledged to the original owner's draper. Others left sheaves of bills but history does not relate whether they were ever paid.

Sir Richard Strachan, a hero of the Battle of Trafalgar and holder of the Order of the Bath, ran up bills with carriage-makers, stay-makers, chimney sweeps for his London house and a demand for £10 from "Mr Mash the potato man".

Occasionally, some of the contents of the customer oubliette see the light of day in exhibitions. Some of the papers relating to the French Royal Family have been sent to Paris, while others have gone to University College London.

But the remainder still await collection in concrete strongrooms in the Strand and in Docklands on the Thames, down which the original owners of the treasures set sail for the four corners of the world.



The £40,000 snuff box, far right, with other items from the Coutts Bank collection

Annual figures 1995

excellent result 1995:
net profit + 15% to NLG 2,649 million
dividend + 11% to NLG 4.15

(in millions of guilders, except for amounts per share)	1995	1994	%
Result before taxation:			
- insurance operations	2,186	1,834	14.8
- banking operations	1,752	1,509	16.1
Net profit	2,649	2,302	15.1
Profit per ordinary share	9.68	8.71	10.2
Dividend per ordinary share	4.15	3.74	11.0
Total assets	396,264	353,667	12.0
Shareholders' equity	23,777	21,758	9.3

- ING Group achieved an excellent result for 1995. Both the insurance and the banking results developed favourably.
- In insurance, life profit showed a growth of 15.1% to NLG 1,097 million. Non-life profit increased by 14.9% to NLG 339 million.
- In banking, the interest result decreased slightly to NLG 6,258 million (- 0.5%). Due to the acquisition of Barings, commission income showed a strong increase of 44.7% to NLG 1,980 million. The result from financial transactions improved very substantially compared to the low level for 1994, from NLG 37 million to NLG 977 million.
- Compared to the end of 1994, shareholders' equity increased by NLG 2.0 billion to NLG 23.8 billion. Shareholders' equity per share rose from NLG 79.67 at the end of 1994 to NLG 83.38 at the end of 1995 (+4.7%).
- A proposal for a share split will be submitted to the General Meeting of Shareholders. If this proposal is approved, the nominal value of the ordinary shares of ING will be changed from NLG 2.50 to NLG 1.00 as of 3 June 1996.
- ING Group also intends to apply for a listing on the New York Stock Exchange in the course of 1997.
- The Executive Board faces the future with confidence, but considers it premature to make a profit forecast for 1996 at this stage.

ING GROUP

Internet: <http://www.ing.nl>

The annual report appears on 18 April 1996 and can be obtained at the following address: ING Group, P.O. Box 810, 1000 AV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Telephone: (+31) 20 541 54 71, fax: (+31) 20 541 54 51.

THE RAILTRACK SHARE OFFER.

HOW TO REGISTER.



Share Shop

To register for the Railtrack Share Offer contact one of the Share Shops listed below. If you are a client of a stockbroker or share dealing service which is not listed, you may wish to contact that firm as it may also be acting as a Share Shop for its existing clients. The services offered by different Share Shops may vary.



Telephone or call into a branch of one of the following banks or building societies:

Barclays Share Shop	0800 000333	NatWest Share Shop	0990 600600	Ulster Bank Ltd	0990 600600
Lloyds Bank Share Shop	0800 211211	Norwich & Peterborough Building Society	0800 550088	Yorkshire Building Society	0800 573573
Midland Bank	0345 321005	TSB	0645 470370		

Contact by telephone only:

Abbey National Share Shop	0121 687 8007	Hargreaves Lansdown	0800 929394	Skipton Building Society	0800 138 0800
Cheshire Building Society	0800 138 4000	ShareLink Ltd	0121 687 8000	The Royal Bank of Scotland	0800 132138
City Deal Services Ltd	01708 738887	Sharemarket	0161 237 9443	The Share Centre	0800 800008
		Sharewise	0800 138 1000	YorkSHARE Ltd	0800 736736

Or contact:

ENGLAND

Avon

Albert E Sharp, Bristol	0121 683 7360
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Bristol	0151 242 5361
Rowan Dartington & Co Ltd, Bristol	0117 925 3377

Berkshire

Albert E Sharp, Reading	0121 683 7360
-------------------------	---------------

Buckinghamshire

BFS Stockbroking, Aylesbury	01296 399633
Waters Lunniss, Milton Keynes	01908 691681

Cambridgeshire

Waters Lunniss, Cambridge, Peterborough	01223 303101
---	--------------

Cheshire

James Brearley & Sons, Stockport	0161 487 4404
----------------------------------	---------------

Cleveland

Darlington Building Society, Hartlepool,	
Middlesbrough, Redcar, Stockton, Yarm	0800 138 3000
Wise Speke Ltd, Middlesbrough	0191 201 3990

County Durham

Darlington Building Society, Barnard Castle,	
Bishop Auckland, Darlington	0800 138 3000

Cumbria

Hargreave Hale (Marsden W) & Co, Carlisle	01228 818110
James Brearley & Sons, Kendal, Carlisle	01539 733979
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Bowness on Windermere	0151 242 5361

Derbyshire

Nicholson Barber, Chesterfield	01246 550380
--------------------------------	--------------

Devon

Albert E Sharp, Exeter	0121 683 7360
Barnard (M D) & Co Ltd, Exeter	01626 832680
Christows Ltd, Exeter	01392 210510
Citywall Financial Mgmt Ltd, Exeter	01392 422592
M D A Investment Mgmt Ltd, Exeter	01392 496320
Philip J Milton & Co, Barnstaple	01271 44300
Redmayne-Bentley, Beaworthy	01409 231317
Walker, Crips, Weddle, Beck plc, Newton Abbott	01626 335533

Dorset

Christows Ltd, Bournemouth, Dorchester	01202 299344
I A Pritchard Stockbrokers Ltd, Bournemouth	01202 297035
M D A Investment Mgmt Ltd, Bournemouth	01202 291662

East Sussex

Donne Mileham & Haddock, Brighton	01273 744597
Durlacher Ltd, Hove	01273 205217

Essex

Barnard (M D) & Co Ltd, Basildon	01268 416657
Branston and Gothard Ltd, Westcliff on Sea	01702 347173
Redmayne-Bentley, Leigh on Sea	01702 470870
Walker, Crips, Weddle, Beck plc, Colchester, Rayleigh	01206 769001

Gloucestershire

Albert E Sharp, Cirencester, Gloucester	0121 683 7360
Redmayne-Bentley, Stroud	01453 758100

Greater Manchester

Albert E Sharp, Manchester	0121 683 7360
Arnold, Stansby & Co, Manchester	0161 832 8554
Branston and Gothard Ltd, Manchester	0161 832 2924
BWD Rensburg, Manchester	0151 236 2787
Fairmount Stockbrokers, Bolton	01204 362233
Henry Cooke, Lumsden plc, Manchester	0161 834 2332
John Siddall & Son Ltd, Manchester	0161 832 7471
Pilling & Co (Stockbrokers), Manchester	0161 832 6581
Redmayne-Bentley, Manchester	0161 794 8018
W H Ireland Ltd, Manchester	0161 832 2174
Wise Speke Ltd, Manchester	0191 201 3990

Hampshire

Durlacher Ltd, Southampton	01703 229229
John Siddall & Son Ltd, Fareham	01329 825411
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Winchester, Southampton	0151 242 5361

Hereford & Worcester

John Siddall & Son Ltd, Malvern	01684 893385
---------------------------------	--------------

Hertfordshire

Thomas Grant & Co Ltd, Letchworth	01462 486318
-----------------------------------	--------------

Humberside

Redmayne-Bentley, Beverley	01482 864090
----------------------------	--------------

Isle of Wight

Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Newport	0151 242 5361
------------------------------	---------------

Kent

Brachers Solicitors, Maidstone	01622 673423
Cripps Harries Hall Solicitors, Tunbridge Wells	01892 506038
Jarvis Investment Mgmt Ltd, Tunbridge Wells	01892 510515
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Tunbridge Wells	0151 242 5361
Redmayne-Bentley, Orpington	01689 818818
Wilkinson Stockbrokers, Hawkhurst, Tunbridge Wells	01580 754488

Lancashire

Hargreave Hale (Marsden W) & Co, Blackpool, Preston	01253 295585
Hedley & Co, Blackburn, Preston	01254 699333
James Brearley & Sons, Blackburn, Blackpool, Burnley, Lancaster	01253 28686

Leicestershire

Albert E Sharp, Leicester	0121 683 7360
David Booler & Co, Leicester	0116 253 7037
Hill Osborne & Co, Leicester	0116 262 9185
Thomas Grant & Co Ltd, Leicester	0116 255 0535

Lincolnshire

Hill Osborne & Co, Lincoln	01522 522850
Thomas Grant & Co Ltd, Boston, Skegness, Grantham, Louth, Lincoln	01522 567171

London

Albert E Sharp, EC2	0121 683 7360
Barnard (M D) & Co Ltd, E15	0181 534 9090
Brachers Solicitors, WC2	01622 673423
Branston and Gothard Ltd, EC2	0171 614 0013
Brewin Dolphin, EC1	0171 248 4400
Chelsea Financial Services Ltd, SW10	0171 351 6022
Christchurch Investment Mgmt Ltd, EC1	0171 726 4057
Dunbar Boyle & Kingsley Ltd, EC2	0171 628 2224
Durlacher Ltd, EC2	0171 628 4306
European Stockbrokers Ltd, W1	0171 493 7070
Hargreave Hale (Marsden W) & Co, W1	0171 409 0840
Henry Cooke, Lumsden plc, SE1	0171 256 2332
Hoodless Brennan & Partners Ltd, EC2	0171 739 1400
John Siddall & Son Ltd, SE1	0171 237 1090
Keith Bayley Rogers & Co, SE1	0171 378 0657
Killik & Co, SW1, SW3, EC3, NW3, W1	0171 461 4400
Laurence Keen, EC4	0171 489 9493
Paul E Schweder Miller Co, EC2	0171 490 5000
Pershing Securities Ltd, E14	0171 345 6345
Pilling & Co (Stockbrokers), EC2	0161 832 6581
Raphael Zorn Hemsley Ltd, EC2	0171 628 4000
Rathbone Bros & Co Ltd, SW1	0171 630 5611
Redmayne-Bentley, EC4	0171 489 9955
S P Angel & Co, EC3	0171 623 3427
Thesis, SW1	01243 531234
Walker, Crips, Weddle, Beck plc, EC1	0171 253 7502
Waters Lunniss, WC1, EC2	0171 405 4865
Westons Securities Ltd, EC3	0171 283 8466
Wise Speke Ltd, EC2	0191 201 3990

Merseyside

BWD Rensburg, Liverpool	0151 236 2787
James Brearley & Sons, Southport	01704 532282
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Liverpool	0151 242 5258
Rathbone Bros & Co Ltd, Liverpool	0151 236 8674
Richard Bamber and Co, Formby, Liverpool	01704 833824

Norfolk

Barratt & Cooke, Norwich	01603 624236
Steele & Co, Diss, Harleston, Norwich, Thetford	01379 652141
Waters Lunniss, Norwich	01603 622265

North Yorkshire

Darlington Building Society, Northallerton	0800 138 3000
Hill Osborne & Co, Scarborough	01723 372478
Redmayne-Bentley, Harrogate	01423 526886
Thomas Grant & Co Ltd, Harrogate	01423 873755

Northamptonshire

Waters Lunniss, Northampton	01604 602998
-----------------------------	--------------

Nottinghamshire

Barratt & Cooke, Mansfield	01623 23596
Thomas Grant & Co Ltd, Nottingham	0115 941 1301
Waters Lunniss, Nottingham	0115 950 3666

Oxfordshire

Albert E Sharp, Oxford	0121 683 7360
Redmayne-Bentley, Henley on Thames	01491 411022

Somerset

Barnard Marsh & Co, Wells	01749 679977
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Taunton	0151 242 5258

South Yorkshire

BWD Rensburg, Sheffield	0151 236 2787
Durlacher Ltd, Rotherham	01709 368490
Nicholson Barber, Sheffield, Doncaster	0114 275 5100

Staffordshire

Cameron McDonald (Asset Mgmt) Ltd, Newcastle under Lyme	01782 628911
P H Pope & Son, Stoke on Trent	01782 202154

Suffolk

Birketts Solicitors, Ipswich	01473 232300
Branston and Gothard Ltd, Bury St Edmunds	01284 704114
Redmayne-Bentley, Bury St Edmunds	01284 723761
Walker, Crips, Weddle, Beck plc, Stowmarket	01449 771882

Surrey

Assets International Mgmt, Tadworth	01737 830010
BFS Stockbroking, Worplesdon	01483 237773

Tyne & Wear

Wise Speke Ltd, Newcastle upon Tyne	0191 201 3990
-------------------------------------	---------------

West Midlands

Albert E Sharp, Birmingham	0121 683 7360
Fyshe Horton Finney Ltd, Birmingham	0121 236 3111
Walker, Crips, Weddle, Beck plc, Solihull	01564 770568

West Sussex

Albert E Sharp, Chichester	0121 683 7360
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Chichester	0151 242 5258
Thesis, Chichester, Horsham	01243 531234

West Yorkshire

Broadbridge (Stockbrokers), Leeds, Wakefield, Halifax	0113 242 2211
BWD Rensburg, Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds	0151 236 2787
Henry Cooke, Lumsden plc, Leeds	0113 243 9011
Hill Osborne & Co, Bradford	01274 728866
James Brearley & Sons, Leeds	0113 246 9596
Redmayne-Bentley, Leeds	0113 243 6941
Wise Speke Ltd, Leeds	0191 201 3990

Wiltshire

Brewin Dolphin, Marlborough	01672 516666
-----------------------------	--------------

SCOTLAND

Dumfries & Galloway

Bell Lawrie White, Dumfries	01387 252361
-----------------------------	--------------

Grampian Region

Abtrust Bell Lawrie, Aberdeen	01224 589345
Cooper & Hay, Aberdeen	01224 573344

Highland Region

Redmayne-Bentley, Inverness	01463 772072
Stirling Hendry, Inverness	0121 683 7360

Lothian Region

Bell Lawrie White, Edinburgh	0131 225 2566
Neilson Cobbold Ltd, Edinburgh	0151 242 5258
Torrie & Co, Edinburgh	0131 225 1766

Strathclyde Region

BWD Rensburg, Glasgow	0151 236 2787
Redmayne-Bentley, Glasgow	0141 248 6941
Stirling Hendry, Glasgow	0121 683 7360

Tayside Region

Redmayne-Bentley, Perth	01738 441144
Stirling Hendry, Dundee	0121 683 7360

WALES

Gwynedd

Hargreave Hale (Marsden W) & Co, Bangor	01248 353242
Henry Cooke, Lumsden plc, Llandudno	01492 874391

South Glamorgan

Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie, Cardiff	01222 340100
-------------------------------------	--------------

NORTHERN IRELAND

BWD Rensburg, Belfast	01232 321002
Cunningham Coates Ltd, Belfast	01232 235958
Magennis & Co, Newry	01693 64317

ISLE OF MAN

Hargreave Hale (Marsden W) & Co, Douglas	01624 614996
R L Stott & Co, Douglas	01624 662400
Ramsey Crookall & Co Ltd, Douglas	01624 673171

For general Offer information you should contact a Share Shop or call 0171 816 8000 (remember you can only register with a Share Shop)

In relation to Share Shops in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, all or most of the protections provided by the arrangements made under the Financial Services Act 1986 for the regulation of members of The Securities and Futures Authority do not apply and compensation under the Investors' Compensation Scheme will not be available to investors. The document is issued and approved by SBC Warburg, a division of Swiss Bank Corporation, which is regulated in the UK by The Securities and Futures Authority. SBC Warburg is acting as financial adviser to the Department of Transport, and no one else, in connection with the proposed offer of shares in Railtrack Group PLC and will not be responsible to any other person for providing the protections afforded to customers of SBC Warburg or for providing advice in relation to the proposed offer. No offer or invitation to acquire shares in Railtrack Group PLC is being made by or in connection with this document. Any such offer or invitation will be made in a prospectus to be published in due course in connection with the proposed sale and any acquisition of shares should be made solely on the basis of information contained in such prospectus. The value of shares can go down as well as up. Persons needing advice should consult a professional adviser. This document is not for distribution in or into the United States, Canada or Japan or to US Persons.

2000/04/06



TROUBLED WATER 31

Theft takes wind out of sailors' sails

WEEKEND MONEY

PENSIONS 32

How to choose the best paying plans



Easter home seekers get cracking

Sara McConnell on how vital signs differ at traditionally one of the busiest times of year

House prices across Britain are rising so sharply that they have already overshot annual targets, analysts said this week. Estate agents and lenders now have high hopes that this Easter weekend, traditionally one of the busiest times of year for housebuying, will help to continue the longest sustained recovery since the housing slump began.

At the start of the year, the Halifax, the largest lender, predicted an average 2 per cent rise in house prices across the country in 1996. That cautious analysis was shared by others, such as NatWest. However, the Halifax this week admitted that its prediction may have been too downbeat, as it announced that prices had risen by 1.2 per cent last month and by 1.7 per cent since last February. This is the eighth rise in succession. Ian Shepherdson, housing analyst with HSBC, says prices this year have risen 2.6 per cent above the average in the final quarter of last year. "The signs are all there for a recovery. The consensus forecast in January was a 2 per cent rise over the year. We have already hit this target."

Many homeowners, however, still see scant evidence of price rises. National averages mask big differences between and within regions, according

to figures issued this week by NatWest. As the graphic shows, Northern Ireland is expected to continue to outpace other regions this year, while movement in prices in the North West and Wales will scarcely be perceptible.

But do these predictions match up with the experiences of estate agents in the front line in the regions?

□ Northern Ireland: Anielm Brankin, of Brankin Estates, Portrush, Co Antrim, said: "Some areas have appreciated, but we still have a lot of difficulties particularly lack of employment. The peace process may have had some effect, but

Home income plans 30

there is a lot of hype. We are in a tourist area, so we have a lot of second homes. I am getting quite a lot of enquiries. They used to be mostly from mainland Britain, but I'm getting more from North America now. I suppose a 6 per cent to 8 per cent rise in prices could be right. But I've heard some ridiculous figures."

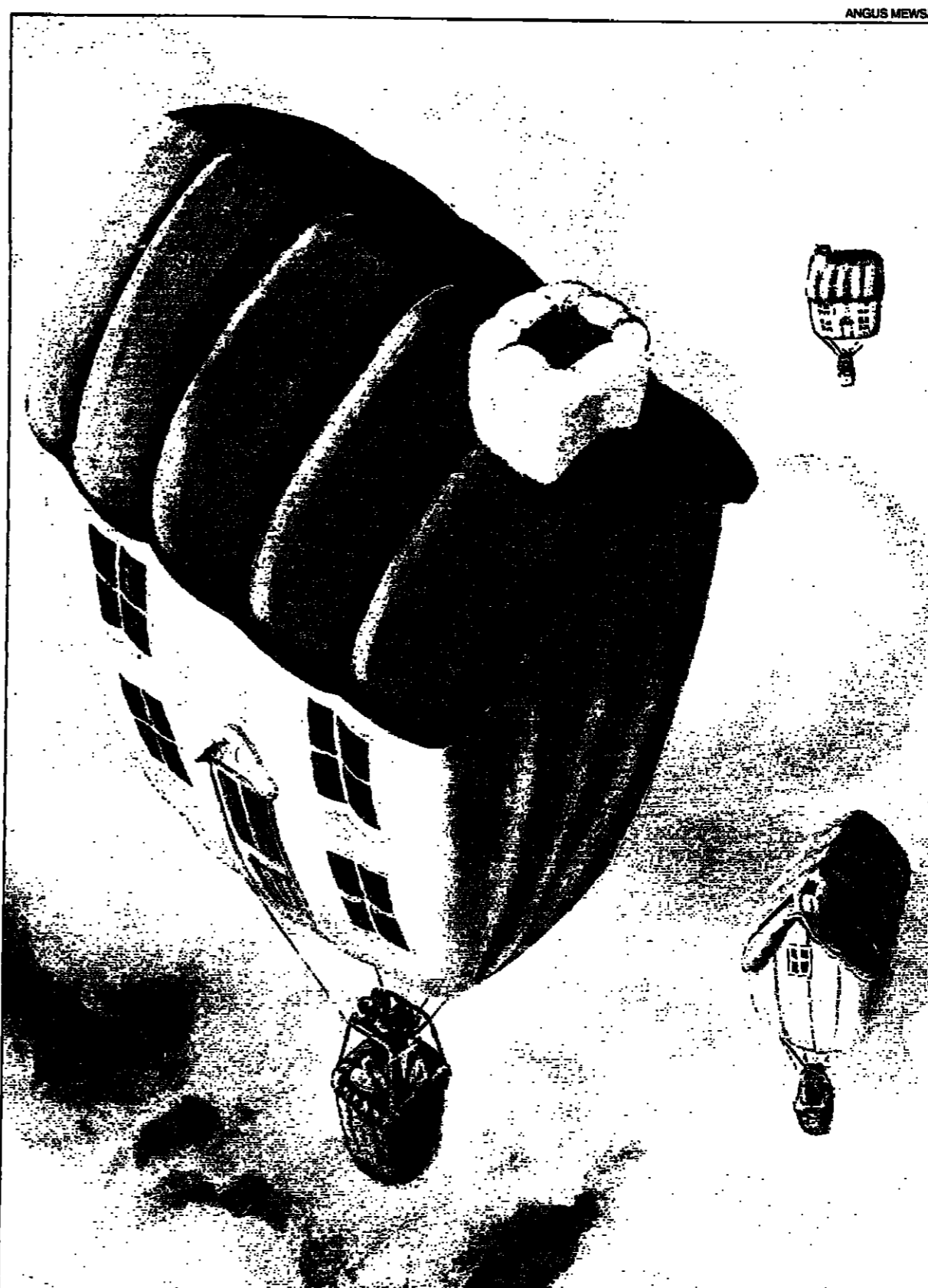
□ South West: Paul Hodgson, of Paul Properties, of Topsham, Devon, said: "I would say prices are rising by more than 3 per cent. Interest is much higher. We can get

much nearer to the full price now. If a property costs £70,000 to £140,000, we are seeing a £1,000 to £2,000 drop between asking price and offer price. It used to be £5,000 or even £10,000. We are seeing people who were renting start to buy. There are some 70s and 80s estate houses in and around Exeter which are difficult to move. If you have eight houses for sale, the one you're selling has to stand out."

□ West Midlands: Simon Parmar, of Simon Andrew Estate Agents, Birmingham, said: "March is normally the first month of activity. We are starting to see more instructions, although it is too early to say if this will filter through into sales. I'm more optimistic than this time last year. Unfortunately we're still getting some sellers being silly about property [and demanding too high a price]. Most of our flats are in the first time buyer market, at between £30,000 and £50,000. We are seeing more people interested."

□ North West: Gary Denholm, of Denholm Estate Agents, Liverpool, says: "I would say prices are generally stable... In the city centre, we are mostly talking about first-time buyer terraced houses. They sell for less than they did this time last year. Speculators are buying them up to let to students, because they're near the university. This tends to push the prices down. They're not doing them up to sell them on - the bottom has fallen out of the market for that. On more upmarket houses, up to £80,000 or £90,000, there is movement and we are getting better prices, although prices are slightly down overall."

□ Greater London: Jeremy Jobson, of John Payne, Blackheath, says: "When I see these regional percentages, I can never relate them to what is really happening in our area. We are probably as busy as in 1994, a good year in Blackheath. Last year was disappointing. Now there are signs that things are picking up. There are more instructions and more conversions into sales. People are competing for the good stuff, but average stuff is still quite difficult. There is not much confidence among people looking in the up-to-£65,000 bracket. They are still frightened because of job insecurity."



Fixed-rate mortgage price rise

Most borrowers will have to pay an average of 0.5 per cent more for fixed-rate loans after this week. Britain's leading lenders have withdrawn their existing two, three and five-year fixed rates and replaced them with more expensive ones as part of a restructuring of their mortgage ranges (Sara McConnell writes).

Lenders blame the rising cost of borrowing money in the wholesale markets for the higher rates. Fixed rate loans are funded by lenders borrowing tranches of money from the wholesale markets which they then sell on to borrowers.

The Halifax has raised most of its fixed rates for both first time buyers and existing borrowers. But at the same time it has sweetened the pill by increasing its maximum cashback from £6,000 to £10,000 and raised its contribution to first time buyers' legal fees from £300 to £500. The society has introduced a complex range of incentives intended to reward loyal customers.

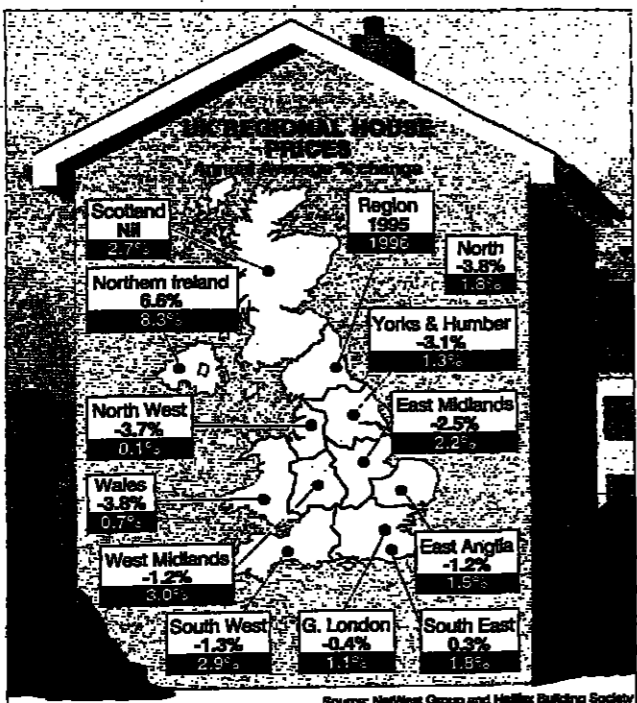
The Nationwide has also raised three and five-year fixed rates for borrowers moving house. But those remortgaging will actually see three and five-year fixed rates fall by around 0.3 per cent.

Mortgage brokers dismissed fears that higher fixed rates could slow a housing market recovery. They say many borrowers are more interested in the large discounts available on variable rates and in short-term fixed rates than in locking themselves into a longer-term fixed rate.

Ian Darby, marketing director at John Charcol, says: "People are going for short-term discounts and fixed rates. There is now a lack of fear about the markets and not much concern that interest rates might go up."

"It's jam today really. And lenders prefer discounts to fixed rates because they are in control of their margins on discounts."

Weekend Money is this week edited by Marianne Curphey



Rock solid on mutuality

BUILDING societies have responded to Northern Rock's plans to convert to a bank by reiterating their commitment to mutuality. Bradford & Bingley claimed Northern Rock's change of heart helped its own commercial position, while industry observers described Northern Rock's decision as "a blow to the building society movement". Northern Rock decided to give up its mutual status after an approach from JP Morgan, the investment bank, suggested a move to help the society to retain its independence and make it less attractive to predators. The Alliance & Leicester, the Woolwich and the Halifax have announced flotation plans.

Details, page 28

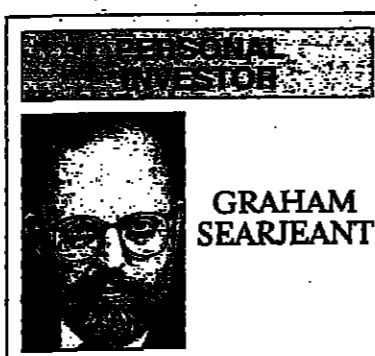
Remaking Humpty Dumpty

When you quake before the thought of Spring cleaning, spare a thought for the London Stock Exchange, which probably has more dust-gathering baggage than any other City institution. John Kemp-Welch, the exchange's reluctant chairman, is stuck in the middle of domestic technical and trading revolutions, assailed by foreign competitors and regulators and without a chief executive, let alone a broom.

In all this, individual investors hardly seem to have been considered. The Bank of England delivered a simplified Crest electronic settlement system quickly by leaving out private investors. But they are being buffeted in the wash. Many have been driven into nominee accounts that break the link between company and investor, despite well-meaning formulae to bridge the gap. The Exchange's account, beloved of small speculators who greased its creakier parts, was abandoned without ceremony.

The trading revolution seems to revolve entirely round competing professional interests. The present system allows firms to be both brokers, who act for customers, and market-makers, the wholesalers who guarantee to take two-way markets in all shares on their own account. Brokers all share on the market-makers, but the latter drive the market through prices quoted publicly on screens.

A coalition of interests has long hated this regime. They finally persuaded the Exchange to prefer a system where prices are driven directly by the weight of buying and selling orders - but not



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

yet and initially only for the top shares that make up the FT-SE 100 index.

Quote-driven market-making is not used in other world markets, but works well on NASDAQ, an American exchange that has outgrown its original small company role. Global securities groups do not like operating a different system in London. Second-rank market-makers reckon they could do better if they did not have to put up the capital needed to hold stocks of shares. The futures exchange wants to base its contracts on prices of actual deals rather than quotes. And big brokers want to grab more commission at the expense of market-makers' buy/sell margins.

As with Crest, ignored private investors will feel the effects. The market-making system has a practical flaw. Prices quoted to all-comers are rarely the best obtainable. So a cheap automated dealing service trading for clients at the "green strip", the best quoted price, may not do best for its clients on any but

small deals. A personal private client broker, who charges more, will usually negotiate a better price. This hinders low-cost US-style private investor services in Britain.

Margins are not the only issue. The smaller the company, the less often it is traded and the more investors rely on wholesalers to maintain a liquid market. Otherwise you might not be able to buy and sell when you want. And the smaller the stock, the more of the trades are made by small investors. If investors are intimately concerned, however, they lack a powerful voice. There should be some way to adjust the quote-driven system to show keener public prices to small investors. Automated broking systems could then trade at the "green strip". But this ideal seems unrealistic.

Private investors would probably be better off if quoted companies were split into three groups. The big companies, whose shares are traded internationally on the conventional order-driven system, plus two local markets: the growing alternative investment market plus a new national market in companies outside the top 250, usually worth less than £300 million. These would be traded, like Nasdaq, via wholesalers.

Who knows whether these would come under the umbrella of the London Stock Exchange. Reform is always likely to fail if its starts with the wrong motives. If the exchange and regulators put private investors, their most numerous clients, first, they would come up with better answers for all.

"I checked out the usual high street names.

I couldn't see 8.0% tax-free anywhere."



96/97 PEPs NOW AVAILABLE

Now high street rates are falling, it's hardly surprising that investors are showing more and more interest in maximising their

income, without exposing it to unnecessary risk.

We believe that Fidelity's best selling MoneyBuilder Income PEP is an ideal long-term investment. It not only gives you an excellent tax-free return of 8.0%* but, because it invests in corporate bonds, it doesn't expose your savings to the levels of risk associated with traditional equity PEPs. And like all our MoneyBuilder products, it has no entry or exit charges.

If you'd like to find out more, call Fidelity on 0800 414171. The call is free and you are under no obligation.

The above bank and building society information refers to interest rates (variable) for deposits of £10,000 - £24,999 held in 90 day accounts. Source: Money Facts 1.4.96. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of units and income from them may go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested after deduction of charges and expenses. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will depend on individual circumstances. Fidelity PEPs are offered by Fidelity Investments Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. *Based on Fidelity's own research on corporate bond PEP sales in January 1996. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice based on individual circumstances. *Estimated gross income calculated on 2.4.96. Redemption yield is 7.6%.

For those who would like independent financial advice, Fidelity products are also available through Independent Financial Advisers.

Compare Fidelity to some high street names

	Gross Interest Rate	After Basic Rate Tax	After Higher Rate Tax
Abbey National	4.1%	3.1%	2.5%
Halifax	4.4%	3.3%	2.6%
N&P	4.3%	3.2%	2.6%
Lloyds	4.5%	3.4%	2.7%
Barclays	4.7%	3.5%	2.8%

Unlike a bank or building society, the value of your investment in MoneyBuilder Income will fluctuate.

0800 414171

Call free 9am-5pm, Open 7 days. Or contact us on <http://www.fid-intl.com/uk>



Take a wiser line with your money.

Mutuals on the bounty

Watching the events of the last year, it is hard not to conclude that building societies speak with forked tongue. They loudly proclaim undying commitment to mutualism but secretly seem to fantasise about a fling with flotation.

This week, Northern Rock became the latest society to give into temptation and begin the process of becoming a bank, following the Alliance & Leicester, the Woolwich, the Halifax, and the National & Provincial.



COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY
Personal Finance
Writer

bigger will step in. As expected, the mutuals left behind lined up to reiterate their belief in the value of remaining as building societies. Their polite cartel, however, seems doomed as, one by one, they leave the club. The converting societies' members — its savers and borrowers — have put up little resistance. As the Alliance & Leicester

observed: "People love mutualism, but not as much as a cheque for £600."

So who is next? This week, the Bristol & West conceded that it was not as committed to mutualism as it had been once. The Bradford & Bingley, Chelsea, Skipton, Birmingham Midshires, and Yorkshire building societies have all pledged to stay

as they are but outside pressures could eventually force a change of heart.

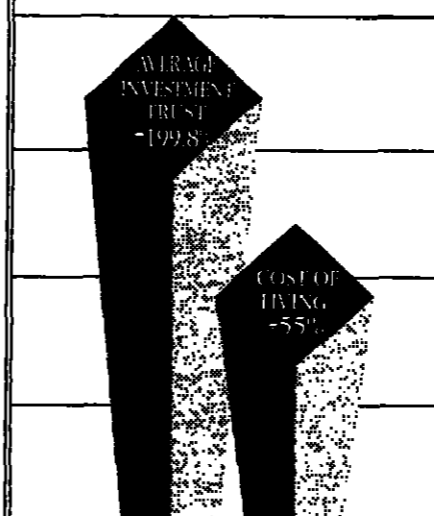
Meanwhile, anyone with a few hundred pounds to spare can still gamble on the remaining societies converting by opening a share account with them and hoping for a payout.

Peter Robinson, the dismissed chief executive of the Woolwich, famously accused such people of being "carpet-baggers".

But the stock market has traditionally rewarded opportunists, and if some building societies are content to move the goalposts without warning, they can hardly complain when ordinary investors join in and start to play their own game.

For £25 a month, GOVETT gives you the INVESTMENT potential of the world

Excellent long-term results



Source: Macropol offer to offer, net income reinvested 5.5% - 1.5% p.a. *As measured by the Retail Prices Index.

To establish a globally-orientated, well-diversified portfolio doesn't necessarily require huge sums of money. With the John Govett Investment Trust Savings Scheme, you can begin reaping the rewards of professional fund management for as little as £25 a month or a minimum £250 lump sum. The scheme is specifically tailored for those seeking controlled levels of risk, allied with the prospect of worthwhile returns in the future. Our range of seven investment trusts spans the most promising markets in the UK and the World. You

can choose from: Govett Oriental, Govett Strategic, Govett American Smaller Companies, Govett Asian Smaller Companies, Govett Emerging Markets, Govett High Income and Govett Global Smaller Companies. A glance at the chart will show just how worthwhile the returns from investment trusts can be. To find out more about our high returns, return the coupon or call us on 0171 378 7979.

To: The Customer Services Department, John Govett & Co. Limited, Shackleton House, 4 Rattle Bridge Lane, London, SE1 2HR. Tel: 0171 378 7979. Please send me details of the John Govett Investment Trust Savings Scheme ☐ The Savings Scheme PEP ☐ (Please tick boxes)

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Day Tel. No. _____ T0904
Issued by John Govett & Co. Limited (regulated by HMFI). Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of shares, and the income from them, may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. Changes in exchange rates will affect the value of Trust investments overseas. Investments in overseas markets offer the possibility of higher returns but also involve a higher degree of risk. Your investment should be regarded as long term.

JOHN
GOVETT



Ostrich investors are baffled

Birds in the hand may be worthless

The news that the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC) is the subject of a winding-up petition by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has left many hopeful investors in the dark about the future of their birds and their money.

The Official Receiver was appointed as provisional liquidator on Thursday and is now trying to track down and preserve the assets and financial records of the company until the winding-up petition is heard on May 8. The Receiver's appointment follows a DTI investigation under section 447 of the Companies Act.

Gary Hollaway, who invest-

ed with OFC a year ago and has been trying to get information from OFC since Monday, said: "They won't talk to me or release the records of what I actually own. At the moment I feel as if I've lost everything."

If earlier figures from the OFC are reliable, the company has taken in millions of pounds of investors' money. The money was used to buy ostriches. As a result, investors are not covered by the City regulators, since investments in animals and other objects are not considered financial investments. They do own the birds. But most ostrich owners will not be familiar with how to raise or sell an ostrich, and

it is possible that there will not be enough birds to go around.

Until the court decides whether to grant a full winding-up order, investors will remain in limbo. If the court decides to wind up the company, the Official Receiver will either call a meeting of creditors to give them the opportunity to vote on an outside liquidator, or he will apply to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to appoint a liquidator.

Investors should contact the Official Receiver at 21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1 3SS. Tel: 0171-637 6605.

KAREN ZAGOR

BLUE CHIP INVESTMENTS. RED HOT RETURNS.

If you had invested £1,000 in our British Growth Fund five years ago, you would have £1,859 by now. That's nearly four times better than the return from cash left on deposit in a building society account.* And, by investing in a portfolio of major British companies, the Fund has beaten 90% of all other UK equity unit trusts since its launch in February 1987 and 88% of them over one year.* If you need any further incentive, the Fund is available with a 1% discount until the end of April 1996 - or tax free through our low cost PEP. For more information, call our free Helpline now.

Gartmore
0800 289 336
Internet address: <http://www.iii.co.uk/gartmore>

Source: Performance data: Macropol. Basis: offer to bid, net income reinvested at 1.5%. *Based on the Building Society £250+ Index - actual return £1,236. *Has beaten 70% over five years. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Tax levels and relief are current and may change and depend upon individual circumstances. Issued and approved by Gartmore Fund Managers Limited, regulated by DMO and the Personal Investment Authority and a member of the Gartmore marketing group which markets pension schemes, regulated collective investment schemes and investment services.

THE GT INCOME FUND.
TOP TEN OVER
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 YEARS.*
AND SINCE LAUNCH.

Launched back in 1973, the GT Income Fund is certainly not new. Its long-term performance, however, is important news for the investor. An exceptional track record of delivering long-term, consistent, above-average returns is reflected in its ranking among the top ten of all comparable funds - time after time.

It's a record which commends the GT Income Fund as a core holding in any equity portfolio - or PEP portfolio, for that matter. And it's a record which makes a powerful point about our style of steady, long-term fund management here at GT Global. Part of the LGT Group, GT Global is an investment house with a truly global outlook, which is reflected in the wide range of both general and specialist funds we manage. And, currently with over £29 billion* entrusted by clients, the Group is notably bigger than some of our better known competitors. Find out more about the PEPable GT Income Fund and about GT Global. Talk to your Independent Financial Adviser, return the coupon or call us free on 0800 212 274.

CONSISTENTLY STRONG PERFORMANCE*									
Position in UK Equity Income Sector over:	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 years
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

CALL 0800 212 274

To: GT Global, Client Services Dept, 14th Floor, Alban Gate, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS. Please send me details about the GT Income Fund.

Name: _____ Address: _____



GT Global
A Member of Liechtenstein Global Trust

IT'S YOUR WORLD. INVEST IN IT.™

*Source: Macropol, offer to bid, net income reinvested. Figures from 1 February in each year to 19/05/96. UK Equity Income Sector. 5 year performance: +139% *As at 1/1/96. Past performance is no guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. PEP legislation can change at any time and the value of tax concessions will depend on individual circumstances. The GT PEP is managed by GT Global Investment Funds Ltd, regulated by HMFI and the Financial Investment Authority. The GT Income Fund is managed by GT Global Fund Management Ltd, a member of the LGT Group which is regulated by HMFI and is a member of AIFM. Issued by GT Global Fund Management Ltd.

7%

P.A.NET
INCOME AND CAPITAL GUARANTEED

EQUIVALENT TO
8.75%* P.A.GROSS

5 YEAR GUARANTEED BOND

If you are looking for a high but guaranteed return for your savings, we know of nothing to beat the current, top-rate Guaranteed Bonds.

NO COMPARISON!

The best building society and National Savings rates simply can't compete:

Guaranteed Bonds	7%
National Savings Pensioners Bond Series 3 ¹	5.6%
Best five-year building society term bond ²	5.8%

Our exclusive Guaranteed Bonds are such good value, that we expect them to sell out very quickly. So, please contact us immediately for details.

*THE PA DOES NOT REGULATE THESE PRODUCTS IF YOU WITHDRAW FROM THE INVESTMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS YOU MAY NOT GET BACK THE FULL AMOUNT INVESTED.

CHASE DE VERE
INVESTMENTS PLC
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Lines open over Easter
0800 526 092
8AM - 10PM 7 DAYS A WEEK

Please return this coupon to: Chase de Vere Investments PLC, FREEPOST, Mire House, Canbury Park Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 6BB.

How much are you considering investing?
☐ £10,000 - £20,000 ☐ Over £20,000

Please send me full details of your Guaranteed Bonds.

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
Date of Birth _____
Tel No _____

Return of the home income plan

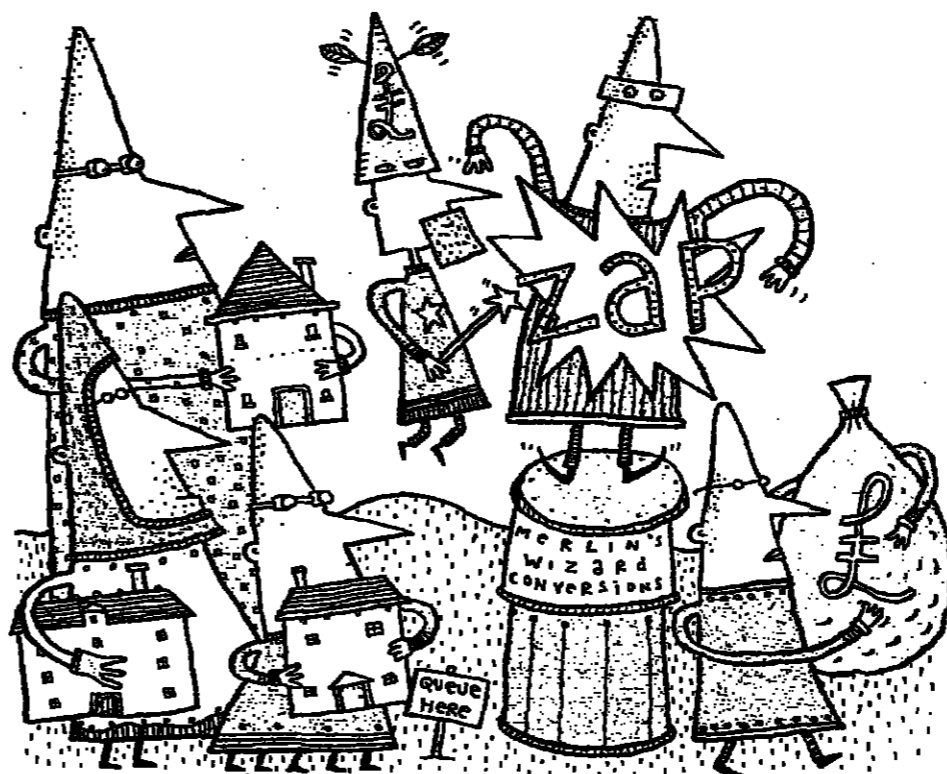
SPIKE GERRELL

Policies to release income in old age may be making a comeback, says Karen Zagor

A renaissance may be at hand for home income plans, as a growing number of older people look for ways to generate income in retirement.

The cost of old age is a problem for individuals and government alike. Later this month, a consultation paper on funding long-term care, drawn up by Oliver Heald, the Social Security Minister, is due to be published (see page 39). It is expected to focus on introducing an insurance arrangement, where people would take out policies to cover themselves for the cost of three years of care, after which the Government would step in to cover any extra years needed at a nursing home.

Cecil Hinton, managing director of Hinton & Wild, the independent financial advisers specialising in home income plans, says: "The paper is really tied into long-term care, but we are anticipating that there is going to be an



element of releasing equity through home income plans to fund the care."

Even if you never need to worry about care costs, ordinary living expenses can prove unwieldy after retirement. You

need a sizeable pension to provide even a modest standard of living in old age.

For most people, a home is their single biggest asset. Home income plans allow people to realise value from

their property before they die. The schemes fell into disrepute in the Eighties, when unscrupulous salesmen sold high-risk investment bonds linked to the plans.

Older people remortgaged all or part of their homes and used the proceeds to buy unit-linked investment bonds; the returns were supposed to cover interest repayment and generate income.

Instead, interest rates rose and investment returns fell. The Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) was forced to mop up the mess. It has paid about £30 million compensation on some 2,000 claims, and there are many outstanding.

Despite this chequered past, there is reason to believe that home income plans, when properly structured, can be safe.

Ship (Safe Home Income Plans) started in 1991 with the aim of winning back public confidence. Its members are the four main home income plan providers - Home & Capital Trust, Stalwart Assurance, Carlyle Life and Allchurches. They have established a series of self-imposed regulations to protect investors. These include guarantees that home income plan holders can remain in their homes for life, while also giving them the option of moving home. There are also schemes offered by reputable providers who are not Ship members.

There are two main types of home income plan - reversion plans and income (or

annuity) plans. With an income plan, you remortgage your property and use the proceeds to buy an annuity which gives income for life. You remain the legal owner of your home. With a reversion plan, you sell a portion or all of your property for an annuity or a lump sum. Mr Hinton normally advises selling no more than 75 per cent of a property, depending on the scheme and circumstances.

"Age is the important thing with these plans," he said. "These are really for people in their 70s and above."

In the US, similar schemes are becoming more popular. Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association), a private corporation federally chartered to provide financial products and services to increase the affordability of housing for low to middle-income Americans, last year introduced what it calls a "Homekeeper reverse mortgage". Homeowners can tap into the equity of their homes in various ways including arranging a stream of income, perhaps through an annuity, or setting up a line of credit which they can draw down.

Tom Mander, a spokesman for Fannie Mae, says: "It is guaranteed that no older person will be forced to leave their home because they have run out of equity. In addition, the borrower will never have to pay back more than the value of the home. Of course the loan has to be paid back eventually, perhaps by selling the home after death. But, if someone lives longer than expected, their estate will not owe more than the value of the house."

Mr Mander warns borrowers that there are costs involved. "There are also emotional considerations if parents want to leave property to their children."

The same is true of the UK. Home income plans will not generate a fortune. An income plan loan of £30,000, usually the upper limit, will provide an annuity of only £102 a month for a 75-year-old taxpaying woman and £156 for a man. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain De Broe, independent financial advisers, says: "I would advise investors considering these plans to do a lot of research first. It is important to make sure that you don't run up a bill that out-prices the house." For a copy of *Age Concern's* book "Using Your Home as Capital" send £4.95 to Age Concern, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN THE GUINNESS FLIGHT CORPORATE BOND PEP

High Yield	Low Annual Management Charge	No Initial Charge	No Exit Charges	High Quality "AA" Credit Rated Portfolio	Tax Free
7.5% p.a.	0.65% p.a.	✓	✓	✓	✓

- GUINNESS FLIGHT VALUE BOND PEP TERMS AND CONDITIONS**
- Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited (the "Plan Manager") is regulated by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) in the conduct of its investment business and is approved by the Inland Revenue as a Plan Manager under the Personal Equity Plan Regulations 1989 (as from time to time amended) (the "Regulations"). To open a Plan you must complete and sign the application form, including the declarations, and meet with the conditions imposed by the Regulations and these Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions form an agreement between you and the Plan Manager which will become effective on the date of acceptance by the Plan Manager of a completed application form signed by you.
 - You may only subscribe to one General Personal Equity Plan in any Tax Year beginning 6 April (ending following 5 April). Subscriptions must be made by cheque payment to the Plan Manager. You can invest between £3,000 and £6,000. If £6,000 is not invested initially, additional monies may be invested during the course of a Tax Year. Application forms and cheques will be acknowledged.
 - All uninvested money in the Guinness Flight Value Bond PEP (the "Plan") will be aggregated and held in a client money account with National Westminster Bank PLC (or another bank nominated by the Plan Manager, which may be an associate) in the name of the Plan Manager. Any interest earned will be credited to your Plan. The Plan will be invested in units in the Guinness Flight Corporate Bond Trust (the "Unit Trust"). Upon acceptance by the Plan Manager all subscriptions received by 12 noon on the business day preceding a dealing day (normally a Wednesday) will be aggregated and invested on the dealing day. Purchases of the Unit Trust will be not of its initial charge. Your Plan investments shall be beneficially owned by you and shall be registered in the name of the Plan Manager or its nominee, which may be an associate, as nominee of the Plan Manager. Documents of title to investments shall be held by the Plan Manager or as it may direct. The Unit Trust is managed by Guinness Flight Unit Trust Managers Limited (the "Unit Trust Managers") an associate of the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager or an associate or other person connected with it may, subject to the overriding principles of suitability and best execution, effect transactions in which the Plan Manager or associate has, directly or indirectly, an interest, relationship or arrangement that is material in relation to an investment or a transaction in an investment under the Plan. The Plan Manager may not commit you to supplement the money in the Plan by borrowing on your behalf. If requested, income will be distributed quarterly within 30 working days of the calculation dates being 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December. Partial withdrawals (subject to a minimum of £500 or terminations are normally aggregated and will be carried out on or before the first dealing day after a written request is received by the Plan Manager.
 - You will receive copies of the Unit Trust Manager's Report and any other information issued to unit-holders and be entitled to attend unit-holders' meetings and vote. No money may be borrowed on your behalf against the security of the investments. You shall not dispose of or transfer any interest in investments or cash in the Plan through either a legal mortgage or equitable mortgage. You may seek to use the Plan as security for a loan through creating a mere equitable charge on the investments and cash in the Plan.
 - You authorise the Plan Manager to organise all tax affairs in respect of the Plan. You will immediately inform the Plan Manager in writing if you cease to be a qualifying individual (see the declaration on the Application Form).
 - You will be sent a deal advice once the Plan is invested and half-yearly statements not later than 20 working days after 30 June and 31 December showing: (i) the number of units in the Unit Trust held in the Plan, their cost, the bid price on the record date and any cash balance held; (ii) all transactions in the Plan during the statement periods; (iii) a statement that the Plan accounts are or have been audited by a qualified auditor; (iv) a statement of the basis on which the values of investments have been calculated. You may inspect the records relating to the Plan and receive copies, subject to a negotiable fee.
 - The amount or rate of fees or the charging structure relating to the Plan may be changed on giving not less than 14 days' notice to you. Subject to 8. below, the following fees are payable to the Plan Manager: (i) an annual management fee of 0.65% p.a. (plus VAT if applicable), charged in two instalments of 0.325% (plus VAT if applicable) of the Plan value, as at 30 June and 31 December and pro rata for the initial and final periods of the Plan; (ii) a charge of £25 plus VAT for additional valuations. The Plan Manager may recover from the Plan all charges, duties and taxes incurred in transactions in the investments of the Plan. The Plan Manager may sell investments in the Plan and apply the proceeds in payment of fees and expenses due. The Unit Trust Manager receives fees as the manager of the Unit Trust which are reflected in the Unit Trust's unit price.
 - The Plan Manager receives a rebate in respect of the full Unit Trust management fee charged within the Unit Trust and the Plan annual management fee will be reduced by at least that rebate value. The Unit Trust annual management fee is 0.65%. Therefore, currently no Unit annual management fee will be applied to the value of units held in the Plan (because an equivalent charge is already made within the Unit Trust).
 - The Plan may be terminated by the Plan Manager on written notice to you. The Plan will terminate automatically with immediate effect if it becomes void under the Regulations. You may, by written notice, require the Plan Manager: (i) to terminate the Plan immediately and either to transfer to you the investments and cash comprised in the Plan and the income and rights attaching to them or to realise the investments and pay the proceeds to you; or (ii) to transfer, within such period as may be agreed between the Plan Manager and you, the Plan and the investments and cash within it to another Inland Revenue approved plan manager who agrees to accept the transfer. Three months' notice will be given if the Plan Manager intends to cease being the Plan Manager. On termination of the Plan, unless otherwise directed, the Plan Manager shall realise the investments in the Plan on or before the first dealing day following receipt of your instructions and shall pay to you the net proceeds of sale and any cash held in the Plan. Termination of the Plan will be subject to completion of outstanding transactions. These Terms and Conditions shall continue to apply as necessary notwithstanding termination of the Plan.
 - Your Plan will cease to qualify for tax exemption under the Regulations from the date of your death. Upon receipt of formal notification and instructions from your legal personal representatives, the Plan will either be liquidated or the assets transferred to the persons as nominated by them.
 - You confirm to the Plan Manager that during the continuance of the Plan you will remain the sole beneficial owner of the investments and cash, free from encumbrances. You will not have the right to cancel your Plan application under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989 (as from time to time amended) if the application has been made on your own account, rather than through an independent financial adviser. Settlement of amounts due on termination or partial withdrawal will be made within 7 days of receipt of the proceeds by the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager may vary these Terms and Conditions from time to time by giving not less than 14 days' notice to the Plan Holder. The Plan is governed by English law.
 - Complaints should be addressed to the Plan Manager's Compliance Officer. You also have the right to complain direct to the Investment Ombudsman and may be entitled to compensation under the Investor Compensation Scheme.
 - The Plan Manager may pay commission of 0.5% p.a. (plus VAT if applicable), out of its Plan annual management fee, to introducing financial advisers.
 - All notices and instructions to be given to the Plan Manager should be sent to 5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE. Instructions shall be acknowledged by the Plan Manager. Notices and other documents to be given or sent to you shall be sent to your last notified address at your risk. April 1996

KEY GUINNESS FLIGHT CORPORATE BOND TRUST INFORMATION AS AT 28.3.96

Investment Objective and Policy: to provide a high income and the opportunity for capital gains from a diversified portfolio of primarily Euro-Sterling, Bulldog, other corporate bonds and preference shares but Gilts and other government and public securities may also be included in the property of the Trust. Securities purchased will be of high quality and marketability. The Trust will be invested to ensure that units will, at all times, constitute qualifying investments in terms of the Personal Equity Plan Regulations 1989, as from time to time amended. Trust Size: £30.3m. Launch Date (and price): 7.10.91 (100p). Ex-dividend Dates: 31 December, 31 March, 30 June, 30 September. Distribution Dates: 10 January, 10 April, 10 July, 15 October. Reports Sent: Interim: 31 May, Annual: 30 November. Bid/offer Spread (maximum): 3.60% (3.08%). NB. This includes unit initial charge of 3.5%, which is waived for PEP purchases. Trustees: Royal Exchange Trust Company Limited, London EC2M 3TG. Regulated by IMRO. Auditor: KPMG, London EC4V 3PD. Trustee Charge: 0.06% maximum (plus VAT). Product and Scheme Particulars: available on request.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*Estimated gross yields, as at 25.3.96 were redemption 7.7% and distribution 7.9% both of which are net of annual management charge and tax-free in a PEP (subject to a 40% tax payment). **BICAA credit rating. An "AA" rating is defined as meaning "a fund which provides very strong protection against losses from credit default". Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. Tax benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by IMRO.

GUINNESS FLIGHT VALUE BOND PEP APPLICATION FORM FOR 1996/97

Please complete this Application Form in block capitals and return it, together with your cheque to Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, 5 Gainsford Street, London SE1 2NE. Tel: 0345 564 564.

1. NAME AND ADDRESS DETAILS

Title _____ First Names _____
Surname _____ Date of Birth _____
Permanent Residential Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone (Daytime) _____

Please give your daytime telephone number in case of a query arising in relation to your application. This is solely for the purpose of processing your application, no salesman will call. If your application has been introduced via a financial adviser, Guinness Flight will contact the financial adviser.

Please enter your National Insurance Number _____

If you do not know your National Insurance Number see your form P60, notice of coding or tax return. Otherwise your employer or tax office may be able to help. If you have retired you can find the number on the front cover of your pension book.

2. INVESTMENT AMOUNT

Please note the minimum investment for each tax year is £3,000 and the maximum investment is £6,000.

I apply to subscribe £ _____ for the tax year 1996/97

I enclose my cheque for £ _____ made payable to "Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited"

Before you invest you should have read the Terms and Conditions applicable to the Plan printed adjacent.

3. PROUSE

I would like my income to be reinvested ☐ distributed ☐ (please tick one box).

I would like my income paid into my bank ☐ (A bank mandate form will be sent to you for completion)

If none of the above boxes are ticked, income will be automatically reinvested.

4. AUTHORITY, NOTICES AND DECLARATIONS

I authorise the Plan Manager:

(a) to hold my cash subscription, Plan investments, interest, dividends and any other rights or proceeds in respect of those investments and any other cash in the Plan;

(b) to make on my behalf any claims to relief from tax in respect of Plan investments and to provide the Inland Revenue with information as to my Plan and Plan investments;

(c) on my written request to transfer or pay to me, as the case may be, Plan investments, interest, dividends, rights and other proceeds in respect of such investments or any cash.

I declare that:

(a) I am aged 18 years or over, I am resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes or, though non-resident, perform duties which by virtue of Section 13(4)(a) of the Taxes Act are treated as being performed in the United Kingdom and will inform the Plan Manager if I cease to be so resident and ordinarily resident or to perform such duties;

(b) I have not subscribed and will not subscribe to any other General Plan for the same tax year(s) to which this application relates;

(c) this subscription is entirely from my own resources;

(d) the information given by me in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and I will notify the Plan Manager, without delay, of any changes in my circumstances affecting any of the information on this application.

Signature _____ Date _____

5. CANCELLATION RIGHTS

Cancellation rights as laid down in the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989 do not apply to an application made on your own account, rather than through an independent financial adviser.

For Office use only: 3037/96

Agent's Stamp _____ 1996/97 Plan No: _____

Agency No: _____

WORLD'S BEST VALUE
ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
0800 564 121
WORLDCOVER
21 DAYS FREE SKI COVER

ALL ABOARD!

RAILTRACK SHARE OFFER

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE RAILTRACK SHARE OFFER AND THE CHANCE TO WIN A HOLIDAY IN THE CARIBBEAN

CALL FREE ON 0800 92 93 94

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN STOCKBROKERS LTD
Kendal House, 4 Brighton Mews, Colton, Bristol BS8 2WY
Regulated by the SFA

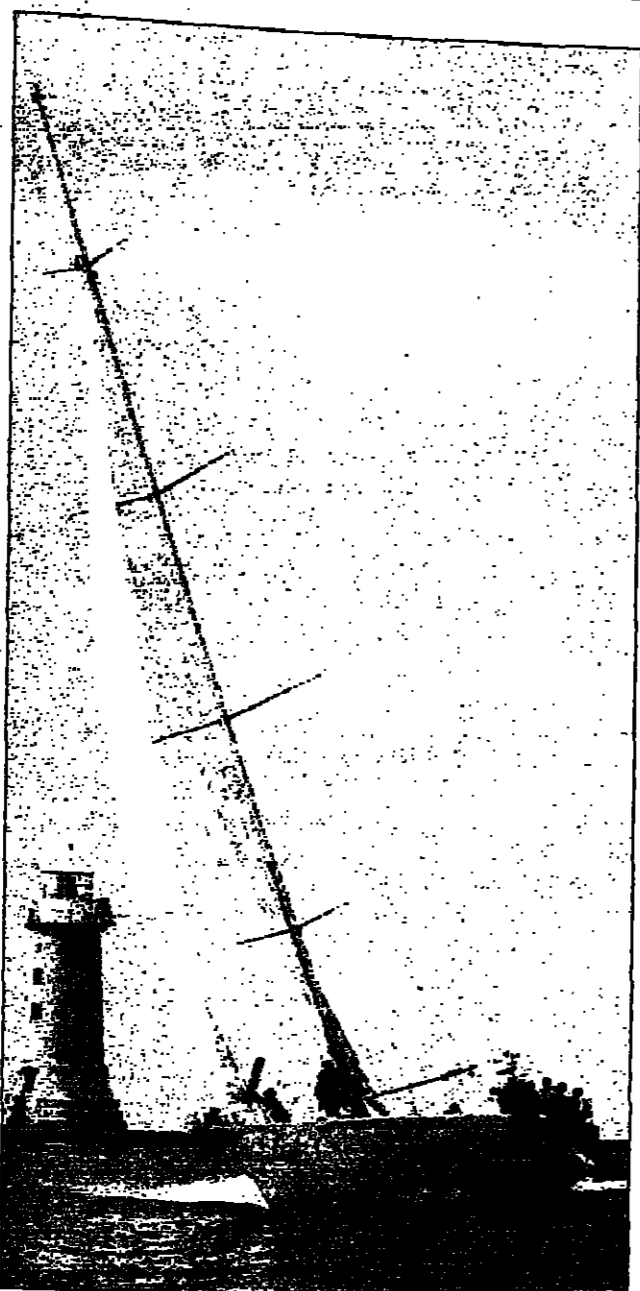
REGISTER NOW TO RECEIVE:

- FULL REPORT ON RAILTRACK WHEN THE OFFER OPENS
- OWN CERTIFICATE FOR ALL SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS
- PRIZE DRAW FOR ALL REGISTRANTS
1st prize luxury holiday for 2 in Barbados
2nd prize trip on the Orient Express
- CHILDREN'S PRIZE DRAW FOR MODEL RAILWAY ENGINES

MAKE TRACKS TO A 1ST CLASS SHARE SHOP

This advertisement is issued by, and is the responsibility solely of, Hargreaves Lansdown, which is acting as a Share Shop in relation to the Railtrack Share Offer. A Share Shop making an application for Shares on your behalf in the Offer will be acting as your agent and has no authority to act for the Secretary of State for Transport or any other person. Shares will be sold by the Secretary of State in the Offer solely on the basis of information contained in the Prospectus to be issued in connection with the Offer. The SFA do not regulate the prize draw.

HARGREAVES LANSDOWN



Plain sailing: brokers reckon on a premium of 1 per cent of value

Brokers braced for rush to the sea

Yacht owners visiting berths for the first time in months may get a shock, says Marianne Curphey

Insurance brokers have this week been inundated with calls from yacht owners keen to buy cover for their boats before they set out for Easter - the unofficial start of the sailing season.

"We've been flat out," said Bishop Skinner, the London-based broker. "Hundreds of calls have come through daily from people who want to fix up their insurance before they hit the water this weekend."

Insurance offices are also bracing themselves for a glut of claims. Many policyholders have left their craft unattended over the winter and will discover they have been victims of a break-in.

Britain's marinas are being targeted by increasingly sophisticated gangs of thieves who raid private yachts and carry off thousands of pounds worth of navigation equipment.

Police believe the stolen goods are then sold as second-hand items hundreds of miles away in the boat world's equivalent of car boot sales.

"It is a real problem," said Stephen Whiteman of Marine Underwriting Agencies in Lyndhurst, Hampshire. "Owners of boats accumulate lots of spare equipment which they want to sell on quite legitimately. We are concerned, however, that some sales might also be used to dispose of stolen goods."

A third of all claims are for theft and the most commonly-stolen items are outboard motors and navigation equipment which can cost from between £200 and £3,000 to replace. Insurers ask policyholders to keep records of all serial numbers.

In addition, some insurers specify that small boats should be kept in a locked building while trailers attached to large vessels should be fitted with wheel clamps.

The cost of insurance depends on the type of craft and

its value, but a rough estimate is that the annual premium will be about 1 per cent of the value. Cover for a £75,000 cruiser would be roughly between £700 and £800. A powerful speedboat worth £12,000 would cost about £500 to insure because of the higher risks.

Unlike private motor insurance, all boat insurance policies are tailor-made, depending on the experience of the yacht owner, the age of the boat, the location of its mooring and the range within which it will be used.

Mr Whiteman said older boats attract higher premiums because their maintenance costs are higher. "The sea is a harsh environment in which to keep anything and older boats need a lot of attention. Premiums for new boats are much lower. A £100,000 yacht based at a secure marina on the south coast might cost only £600 to insure."

Like careful drivers, careful sailors can build up a no-claims bonus of 20 per cent over five years which can be used to reduce the cost of insurance. Even without this, premiums have been falling for the past few years, as competition in the market drove prices down. "We are on a downward cycle for rates at present," Mr Whitehead said.

There is no way of telling whether this will continue. If one big player decides rates must go up, the rest of the industry is likely to follow. Ian Burns, director of Bachmann Insurance Brokers in Guernsey, agreed. "Rates in general have been falling slightly this year but our clients spend much of the year in the US and the Caribbean, where liability costs, and therefore rates, are higher."

Bishop Skinner 0171 253 6572. Marine Underwriting Agencies 01703 283361

The new 1996/97 Schroder PEP.

Happy New Year.

1 st Schroder UK Growth Fund plc	1 st Schroder UK Enterprise Fund	1 st Schroder Income Fund	1 st Schroder Smaller Companies Fund
---	---	--------------------------------------	---

It's the beginning of the new tax year. That means you have a brand new PEP allowance of £6,000.

Choosing your PEP now would give it the maximum time to produce returns worth celebrating in the future - especially if it's the new 1996/97 Schroder PEP.

For a high income or long term capital growth, in the UK or overseas,

the new Schroder PEP gives you a choice of some of our highest performing Funds.

You can invest by lump sum (minimum £3,000) or regular savings (minimum £50).

To receive our new brochure and application forms, simply call us free or return the coupon below. Alternatively, contact your usual financial adviser.

Call 0800 002 000

TO: SCHRODERS, CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT. 01463 FREEPOST, LON 7109 LONDON EC4B 4PD. Please send me my free Schroder PEP brochure.

Name _____
Address _____

Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, regulated by IMRO. Registered Office: 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 6AS.

*Sources: Micropal, buying price to selling price, gross income reinvested from launch (or closest available date on Micropal) to 1.4.96. Schroder UK Growth Fund 1st out of 9 since 2.5.94. Schroder UK Enterprise Fund 1st out of 105 since 1.8.88 (over five years, 3rd out of 124). Schroder Income Fund 1st out of 6 since 3.1.72 (over five years 5th out of 73). Schroder Smaller Companies Fund 1st out of 13 since 1.6.79 (over five years 2.5th out of 56).

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise, and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation may change. Tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value depends on the circumstances of the individual investor.

Schroders

You can invest in The M&G PEP from as little as £50 a month, or as much as £6,000 lump sum.

Telephone (01245) 390000 or write to:
The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You may not get back the amount you invested. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future. The value to you of tax benefits will depend on your circumstances. M&G does not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products of the M&G Marketing Group. Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Reg. No. 023091.

M&G

Managing your money for the longer term

GIVE YOUR TESSA MONEY AN OFFSHORE BREAK

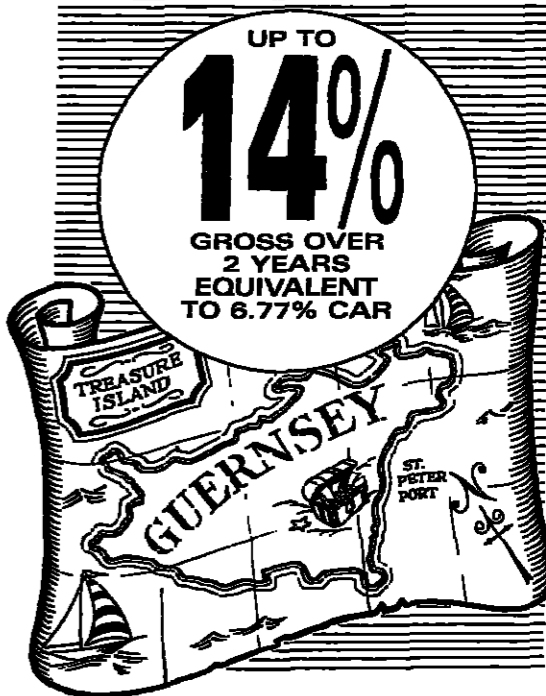
If you are wondering how you should invest some or all of the money you have received from a TESSA (or if you've simply got a lump sum looking for a profitable home) then consider the benefits of a little offshore break with First National Building Society Guernsey.

Our Two Year Fixed Rate Account offers a high, fixed rate of 14% gross for 24 months investment.

The interest is paid without deduction of withholding tax. And because the rate is fixed your return is guaranteed even if interest rates in general should fall.

In other words you can earn an extremely competitive rate of return - gross and guaranteed - without having to lock your money away for another five years.

First National Building Society Guernsey Limited is a subsidiary of First National Building Society, which was founded in 1861 and is one of the longest established building societies in Great Britain and Ireland.



Balance	Gross Paid at Maturity	Gross Car
£250,000 plus	14.00%	6.77%
£100,000-£249,999	13.75%	6.65%
£50,000-£99,999	13.50%	6.54%
£25,000-£49,999	13.00%	6.30%
£10,000-£24,999	12.75%	6.18%
£5,000-£9,999	12.50%	6.07%

The minimum investment is £5,000. All interest paid at the end of two years.

INFORMATION HOTLINE:
0800 004567
CALLS ARE FREE
Lines open Monday to Friday 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m.
Calls from outside the UK +44 1481 710400

FIRST NATIONAL

BUILDING SOCIETY GUERNSEY LIMITED
First National Building Society Guernsey Limited, P.O. Box 458, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 6AE

OPEN AN ACCOUNT OR SEND FOR MORE INFORMATION TODAY.

Please complete and return the coupon (with a cheque if appropriate) to:
First National Building Society Guernsey Limited, P.O. Box 458, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 6AE
Please send me more information about your Two Year Fixed Rate Account
OR: Please open a Two Year Fixed Rate Account
Please find enclosed a Sterling cheque for £ (Minimum £5,000) ☐ AF06

Mr/Ms/Ms. _____ Surname _____
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Address _____
Post Code _____
Telephone No. _____ Signature _____

First National Building Society Guernsey Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First National Building Society. First National Building Society Guernsey Limited has its registered office and principal place of business at 271, New St, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 6AE and is licensed under the Banking Supervision (Guernsey) Law, 1994 as presented. The package share capital of First National Building Society Guernsey Limited amounts to £1 million. Interest added accounts are available for inspection upon request. Deposits made with First National Building Society Guernsey Limited in Guernsey are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the UK Banking Act 1987. Interest rates are correct at time of going to press. Interest is calculated on a daily basis and will accrue from the date of clearance of the funds up to but not including the date of withdrawal.

PORTFOLIO

35%
GUARANTEED
FOR 10 YEARS
10 YEARS

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a woman's face. She is looking slightly to her right with a soft expression. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows on the left side of her face and bright highlights on the right. Her hair is dark and pulled back. The image has a grainy, artistic quality.

Book helps make work child's play

The 1996 edition of *The Working Parents Handbook* is now available, offering a practical guide to childcare. The handbook, published by Parents at Work, a national charity committed to the welfare of children of working parents, explains how the Children Act 1989 applies to parents and carers and includes advice on finding a carer and employing a nanny. Send a cheque for £5.50 made payable to Parents at Work, 45 Beech Street, London EC2Y 8AD.

A credit card for the over-50s has been launched by Saga Services. Key benefits of the card include no annual fee, up to eight weeks' interest-free credit, 13.5 per cent APR for the first six months, free travel accident insurance of up to £150,000, security option of a photocard and cheque book facility. Saga's Visa card is widely accepted in the UK. For further details, call 0800 300 225 ext 2345.

Ernst & Young, the tax adviser, has developed a software package designed to help employers to meet their self-assessment obligations. *EY/PA plus* will enable businesses to calculate tax values on screen, produce copies of

PID forms for employees and management reports such as stock options and personal tax returns. The system can be customised for an individual company. Tel: 0171 928 2000.

Help the Aged has produced a new edition of its leaflet *Check Your Tax*, which aims to ensure older people understand the tax system and take advantage of all the tax breaks available. Several million people, many of them pensioners, are needlessly paying tax and losing a fifth of their savings income to the Inland Revenue, according to the charity. The leaflet explains what income is taxable and what is tax-free, what tax allowances are and how they work. For a free copy, send a SAE to The Information Department (TAX), Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

Green Flag National Breakdown, the rescue organisation, is offering a seasonal reduction for motorists who take out membership before 7pm on April 8. Four levels of cover are available, costing between £26.50 and £82.50. To qualify, call 0800 000111.

LIZANNE ROSE



SAVERS BEST BUYS

Account Notice of term Deposit Rate Interest paid

Instant Access Accounts
Portman BS 01202 262444
Skipton BS 01758 700111
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000

FIXED RATES

Account Notice of term Deposit Rate Interest paid
Nor & Peterborough 01733 391497
Coventry BS 0345 665522
Scarborough BS 0800 590578
Chelsea BS 0800 272505

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)

Account Notice of term Deposit Rate Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505
Chelt & Glouce 0800 717805
Birm Midlands BS 0845 720721
Principality BS 01222 344185

CREDIT CARDS

Card type Interest per month APR% Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024
Fitzell Bank 0800 373191

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS APR Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance no insurance
Yorkshire Bank 0113 2315324 14.80% £117.68 £102.09
Midland 0800 180180 14.90% £115.82 £102.49
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024 16.20% £113.94 £103.33

Nb. A = 2% bonus if Account opened by 30.4.96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate 5% above R Fleming base rate, CM denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING
Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01992 500 677)



PIBS

Gross coupon Buying price Gross yield Issue price Minimum purchase amount

FIXED RATE
Birmingham Midlands 9.375% 96.97 9.650 100.17 1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.625% 97.30 100.13 10,000
Bradford & Bingley 13.000% 132.37 9.805 100.20 10,000
Bristol & West 13.375% 97.38 9.821 100.34 1,000
Britannia 13.000% 131.87 9.842 100.42 1,000
Coventry 12.125% 125.08 9.870 100.75 1,000
First National 11.750% 113.25 9.891 100.45 1,000
Halifax 8.750% 92.91 9.418 100.52 50,000
Halifax 12.000% 124.87 9.412 100.28 50,000
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375% 137.50 9.709 100.23 1,000
Newcastle 10.750% 113.50 9.459 100.32 1,000
Newcastle 12.625% 133.00 9.471 100.45 1,000
Northern Rock 12.625% 135.63 9.288 100.14 1,000
Skipton 12.875% 132.87 9.673 100.48 1,000

FLOATING RATE

Cheshire (28/03-28/09) 247.68% 103.63 100.00 1,000
First Nat (20/03-20/09) 9.300000% 100.83 100.00 1,000

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing Shares
Source: ABN AMRO Home Growth - 0171 601 0101

SHARE IN FOCUS - THORN EMI BID SPECULATION

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

GENERAL ASSURANCE

2 Rangle St, York YO1 1HR, 01904 629622
Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE

Regent Buildings London EC2A 3RN, 0171 789 7888
Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP

Colonial Mutual Group, Chesham, Bucks. HP8 2JH, 01494 690 000
Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

COMMERCIAL UNION

Commercial Union, London, 0171 293 7888
Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit-linked investments are a type of insurance policy that allows you to invest your money in a range of assets, such as stocks and bonds. The value of the investment will fluctuate, but you will have the potential to earn higher returns than with a traditional insurance policy.

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

Base rates and mortgage rates are shown in the chart below. The base rate is the rate at which banks can borrow from the Bank of England. Mortgage rates are the rates at which banks lend to homeowners.

The chart shows that the base rate has fallen from 10% to 5% over the last few years. Mortgage rates have also fallen, but not as much as the base rate.

This means that homeowners can now borrow money at a lower rate than they could a few years ago. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

However, it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business. This could lead to higher fees and charges for homeowners, so it's important to shop around for the best mortgage deal.

The chart also shows that the base rate has been stable at 5% for a while now. This suggests that the Bank of England is happy with the current level of interest rates.

Overall, the chart shows that the base rate and mortgage rates have both fallen over the last few years. This is good news for homeowners, but it also means that banks are earning less money from their mortgage business.

Banks are now looking for other ways to make money, such as selling insurance and other financial products. This means that homeowners may have to pay more for these products, but they will also have more choices when it comes to their mortgage.

Overall, the falling base rate and mortgage rates are a good thing for homeowners. It means that they can borrow money at a lower rate and save money on their mortgage payments.

Former world champion remains uncatchable among leading money-makers

Racing spin-offs land Mansell in the lap of luxury

By JOHN HOPKINS

Nigel Mansell, the former Formula One motor racing world champion, earned more money in 1995 than any other British sportsman, according to a survey compiled by *The Times*. He may no longer be as fast as he was around a track, but he leaves his fellow sportsmen in his wake in the matter of making money.

In 1990, when driving for Ferrari, Mansell was the most successful sportsman in Great Britain in terms of annual earnings, with a total of £5.3 million. Six years later, he retains pole position. Between January 1 and December 31, 1995, Mansell was earning at a rate of £149,000 each week and £646,000 per month for an annual total of £7.75 million for both on-track and off-track activities. This is about £2 million a year more than his nearest challenger and almost £6 million more than Damon Hill, whose contract with Williams was worth £1.5 million and who, in addition, has a £500,000 deal with Cellnet, the mobile telephone people.

Ah, you say, surely Mansell didn't drive much in 1995? Hadn't he had a torrid dispute with Williams and wasn't that the time when — stop laughing — his hips were found to be wider than the width of the McLaren car that he was supposed to drive? Didn't it all end in tears? Yes, yes and yes.

The terms of Mansell's contract were such that he earned £4 million by way of compensation for not driving for Williams plus £3 million for driving for McLaren. He was at the wheel of a McLaren car for only 80 race laps (62 in the San Marino Grand Prix and 18 in Spain), so that adds up to £87,500 per lap, which is £3,200 more than the Prime Minister earns in one year.

Accruing money at that rate, on top of which Mansell earned £750,000 from his Ferrari garage, his golf course and book and clothing interests, took him well clear of Nick Faldo. It may be as much of a surprise to see Faldo in second place as it is to see Mansell at the top, given that Faldo spent most of 1995 in the United States and has not won one of golf's four annual major events since 1992. Yet, that is the International Management Group (IMG) for you.

IMG is the past master at negotiating contracts that can be boosted with bonuses for outstanding wins and are in place long enough for troughs, such as Faldo might appear to

be in, not to affect the client's earnings. Faldo has long-term contracts with Pringle (clothing), Mizuno (golf clubs) and Bridgestone (golf balls), to name but three, and one with a British car manufacturer is about to be announced.

The same negotiating techniques were demonstrated on behalf of Ian Woosnam, another IMG client. His sixth place in the table, that earned him enough to pay for the fuel for his private plane and leave a little over, owes much more to the £1.5 million he earned from off-course deals than the relatively low total of £250,000 he won in prize-money at tournaments around the world.

Though boxing, particularly by heavyweights, is considered to be highly paid, it is like the weather. It can be good and it can be less good. Frank Bruno's big pay day against Mike Tyson recently would have thrust him almost to the top of the table had it been in 1995. As it was, he bespotted himself in the pantomime, on television and generally improved his reputation as one of Britain's most popular sportsmen while earning relatively small purses from three successful bouts.

Golf is enjoying rare success in Europe, so it is no surprise that Colin Montgomerie, the



Bruno: big pay day



Faldo: contracts

leading player in Europe these past three years, and Sam Torrance, at 42, are enjoying such bumper days. Torrance, particularly, can probably scarcely believe it. He loves playing golf to such an extent that he plays social golf when he is not competing. So, the idea of being able to make £350,000 in addition to playing golf represents a kind of nirvana to him.

It was at golf that Barry Lane earned one of the richest pay days that anyone enjoyed last year. The first 364 days were scarcely memorable for Lane, but the 365th made up for it. On December 31, Lane won \$1 million (about £666,000) for capturing the Five Tours Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf, the richest tournament in golf.

Football is a game of the people, but should not suggest that its most successful participants will lead any table such as this. Contracts such as Ryan Giggs's with Reebok are dependent on sales and may earn far less than was thought; and, though the antics of such as Paul Gascoigne may dominate the sports pages, this is not the same as earning him a lot of money.

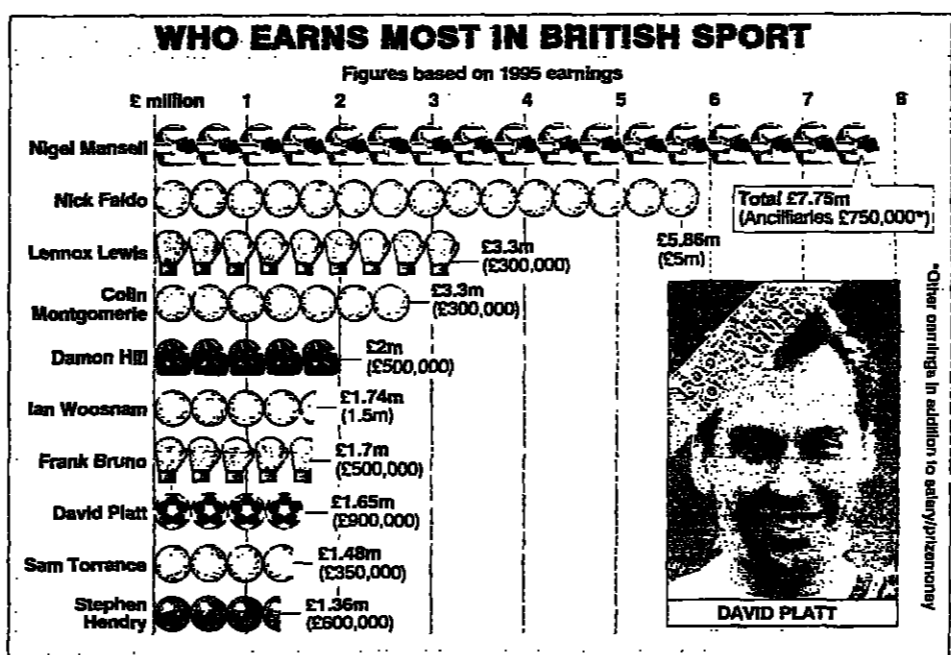
The highest weekly salary in football was £15,000, and few footballers earned that. However, David Platt, who is considered to have earned more than any British-born footballer last year, boosted his salary and bonuses from Arsenal by being the main footballer in McDonald's £7 million investment in the people's game as well as Mizuno's most-prized asset.

"There is no doubt that Stephen Hendry is the best snooker player who ever lived," Ian Doyle, Hendry's manager, said. No surprise, then, that the champion with the cue earned £600,000 away from the table to go with his winnings of more than £750,000.

These figures may be shocking to some and hands may be thrown up in horror at the size of them. On the other hand, it was Dr Johnson who pointed out that there were few ways in which a man could be more innocently employed than in getting money. Anyway, most of them pale into insignificance in comparison with the United States, where Ken Griffey Jr, a baseball player, has just signed a four-year deal with Seattle Mariners that brings him £35,000 each game and £24 million over four years.



Mansell's consistent earning power has left him laughing all the way to the bank



Future looking Bullish as Jordan names his price

FROM PETER SIMUNOVICH IN NEW YORK

Eight years ago, Chicago Bulls basketball team set up a special office in downtown Chicago for Michael Jordan because its public relations office could not handle the increasing demand for his autograph, photograph, public appearance or business endorsement. At the time, Jordan had not reached his peak as a player and he certainly was not the highest paid player in the National Basketball Association (NBA). Since then, however, Jordan has blossomed into a one-man show that now generates an estimated \$40 million (£26 million) a year through the endorsement of products. He also makes about \$3 million a season playing with the Bulls.

All this, though, is about to change. At the end of this season, Jordan, arguably the greatest basketball player of all time, will become a free agent, and, such is his popularity, he has now superseded Al Capone, the gangster, as the best-known name to come out of Chicago.

Already, there has been much speculation about what his true worth is to the NBA and Chicago, and what Jerry Reinsdorf, the Bulls' owner, will offer the great man to stay with his team. Some say that David Falk, Jordan's agent, will negotiate a three-year contract that will pay between \$25 million and \$33 million a season.

At a (very) conservative guess, if Jordan and the Bulls agree to a \$25 million a year deal, it would take his annual earnings, including endorsements and personal appearances, to \$60 million a year, making him the highest-paid professional athlete in the United States.

That is more than \$1 million a week or \$164,382.56 a day, including weekends. That is a conservative estimate because Reinsdorf is expected to pay around \$30 million a year as a reward for Jordan's loyalty, helping the team to win three NBA championships, making the Bulls one of the most popular teams in the country and contributing to Reinsdorf's personal fortune.

Whether Jordan is actually worth that much money is the subject of much debate across the United States. Some say that he now lives the reclusive life of the late Elvis Presley, because he cannot walk down a street without being mobbed. Wherever he plays, it is described as an event, tickets are always sold out well

in advance and he is constantly protected by bodyguards.

Sean Brenner, the Editor of *Team Marketing Report*, a monthly newsletter based in Chicago and circulated to American professional sports teams, tracks the playing and business activities of Jordan almost on a daily basis. "In Chicago, it is very hard to miss Michael Jordan," he said. "Really, he has absolutely turned into a walking one-man corporation and it all started when he became involved with Nike, which signed him before he became a proven professional player."

Brenner says that corporate America thinks that Jordan is particularly believable when he endorses products. "He is used by these companies because he brings in money; they don't sign him to big contracts because they like him," he said. "Jordan always sells out a game because he is a champion player, but also there is the chance that the



Jordan: clean-cut image

fans will see something spectacular."

Brenner believes that Jordan's clean-cut image strongly contributes to his success. "He is not involved in any indiscretions, as some athletes are these days, and I think that he realised very early in his career about the benefits of maintaining a clean image," he said.

Jordan, however, is known to enjoy gambling while playing golf. He has also been seen at casinos playing cards.

His agent is based in Washington, but Jordan's business office in Chicago is still operating and receives at least 5,000 letters a week. He endorses a range of products, including Wheaties, Nike, McDonald's, Chevrolet, Sara Lee food products, Hanes clothing, sunglasses, batteries, hot dogs, sports goods and soft drinks.

Fine opening bid for the Challenge

By ROBERT WRIGHT

THE TIMES Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge is proving a striking success. Already, the Challenge office has dealt with more than 2,000 individual inquiries, resulting in more than 200 planned heats and the involvement of in excess of 6,000 players, with 20 per cent of the £6 entry fee being donated to the National Trust.

The spirit of the competition is typified by the request for a heat organiser's kit from a group of enthusiasts in the south of France. They intend to hold a heat in support of the

reduced fee of £3 per player to pupils, with a special prize of bridge stationery and books to the value of £200 being awarded to the school that produces the most successful pair.

David Price, the Britain international and one of the Challenge's organisers, said: "While I am delighted with the support so far received, I would like to see a much larger proportion of established bridge clubs, of which there are over 1,000 in Britain, agree to participate. It is important that the Challenge is a success in order to ensure that the sport achieves the levels of publicity that it deserves."

The Challenge offers four categories of competition — expert, men's, women's and mixed — and it is based on duplicate bridge. While inquiries are still pouring into the Challenge office, the first results have arrived. First past the post was the bridge section of Frilford Heath Golf Club, in Oxfordshire, with the following qualifiers: Derek Craik and Gordon Seaver (men's); Michael and Patsy Lynch, Ron and Julie Mitchell (mixed); Tiz Evers and Elaine Maggs (women's).

Any pairs or groups who wish to enter but whose usual club are not holding a heat are invited to apply to the Challenge office: either for details of a heat being held in their area or a similar group with which they could join forces in order to stage a heat. The final date for heats is July 15.

The Challenge office can be contacted on 0181 942 9506, or by fax on 0181 942 9509.

Gifford and Fox-Pitt head Brigstock line-up

By JENNY MACARTHUR

MARK TODD, of New Zealand, a dual Olympic gold medal-winner, will join a formidable line-up at the Brigstock Horse Trials in Northamptonshire, which take place this weekend. The event, one of the most popular pre-Badminton fixtures, has attracted riders from 15 countries, many of them Olympic contenders.

The British entry is headed by Kristina Gifford and William Fox-Pitt, members of the gold medal-winning team at the European championships last year. Both are riding their championship horses — Midnight

Blue and Cosmopolitan. Gifford, a leading contender for both the individual and team contests in Atlanta, is also riding General Jack, a team gold medal-winner at the world championships in The Hague in 1994.

Karen Dixon, who is in line for selection for her third Olympic Games, also has a double chance with Get Smart, the winner of the team gold and individual bronze in The Hague, and Too Smart, the winner of the British Open in 1994. She rides both this weekend in preparation for Badminton next month, which is the main Olympic trial.

Other leading Olympic contenders

in action include Nigel Taylor and The Frenchman, who finished eighth at the European championships, and Ian Stark, a member of the Great Britain team from 1983 to 1992, and hoping for a comeback with the highly-rated Mr Mackinnon, on which he finished ninth at Burghley last year.

Todd, already assured of his place in the New Zealand Olympic team with one of his three top horses — Bertie Blunt, Kayem or Ethelred The Unready — heads the powerful foreign contingent. Andrew Nicholson, a winner at Burghley last year, and Victoria Latta, who was fourth in the

1992 Olympics, Todd's compatriots, will also be on show.

A notable absentee this weekend is Mary King, who has withdrawn Star Appeal and King William, her two Olympic contenders. King, who gave birth to a daughter, Emily, at the end of January, has had two successful outings on the horses at Dynes Hall, which she won on King William, and will now wait for the Belton Horse Trials next week to give them their final pre-Badminton outing.

The event, which is running only advanced classes, begins today with the dressage. Showjumping and cross-country take place tomorrow.

Blow to Botham's hopes

By SIMON WILDE

IAN BOTHAM'S ambition to become an England selector has received a setback with the news that the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) has sent a letter to its 20 voting members reminding them of the board's traditional demand that nominees give up their media work if elected to the panel.

The letter, from A. C. Smith, the chief executive of the TCCB, cited the case last year of Bob Willis, whose candidature was withdrawn by Surrey because of his television commitments. "After a brief discussion [by the board's executive committee], it was agreed, as a matter of principle, that someone who was employed full-time in the media could not be a selector," the letter stated.

Smith was at pains yesterday to explain that the board was not trying to block Botham's candidature, but the likely effect of his letter is that Botham's support will lessen. Botham is the only one of

nine candidates who works full-time in the media. Two others — Kim Barnett and Graham Gooch — are active players, a position that has also been considered incompatible with the duties of selectors, who are asked to travel the length and breadth of the country assessing form and talent.

It is unthinkable that an England selector should be permitted to publicly criticise players and retain their confidence, but whether Botham is willing or able to withdraw from media work must be considered unlikely. It is work for which he is lucratively paid and the post of selector offers no remuneration, only expenses.

Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, himself withdrew from the media when he took up his duties two years ago, although, in return, he was paid substantial compensation. Illingworth himself feels that no more than four of the

nominees would be suitable for, the third year running, is backing Fred Titmus and Brian Bolus. Bolus lost his place as a selector last year, when he was replaced by David Graveney, whose own re-election is threatened by his aborted attempt to remove Illingworth as chairman last month.

Although the TCCB rejects the idea, the number of candidates standing in the ballot, the result of which will be announced on April 18, is widely seen as a sign of dissatisfaction at the recent poor performances of the England team.

Phil Simmons, the West Indies batsman, has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee for misconduct during the fourth one-day international against New Zealand, in Guyana on Wednesday. The fine, imposed by Mike Denness, the match referee, was for "attempting to intimidate the umpire when appealing for a leg-before-wicket decision."

Opening onslaught leaves India reeling

SAEED ANWAR, the Pakistani opening batsman, plundered 74 from 49 balls against India in Singapore yesterday as Pakistan trounced their arch-rivals by eight wickets in a rain-hit Singer Cup match to qualify for the final, in which they will play Sri Lanka tomorrow.

India failed to take full advantage of a stroke-filled century from Sachin Tendulkar, who hit a six and nine fours as he maintained the outstanding form that he showed in the World Cup, where he scored more runs than any other player.

After reaching 184 for three — Azharuddin and Manjrekar having provided Tendulkar with sound support — India ran into trouble against the spin of Saqlain and had slipped to 226 for eight after 47.1 overs when rain intervened.

Pakistan's victory was almost assured by a sparkling first-wicket partnership of 144 between Anwar and Asim

Sohail, the captain, who hit an unbeaten 76. Anwar struck Raju for three sixes and also hit eight fours.

INDIA
N S Sohail c Lalit to Javed 14
S R Tendulkar c Lalit to Saqlain 100
M Azharuddin c Lalit to Sohail 29
S V Manjrekar c Lalit to Saqlain 41
A D Jadeja run out 3
J N Mongia run out 3
J Srinivas c Lalit to Saqlain 0
A Kumble not out 14
V Prasad not out 12
Extras (b 3, w 4, nb 3) 15
Total (2 wickets, 47.1 overs) 226
S L V Raju did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-110, 3-127, 4-184, 5-195, 6-206, 7-223, 8-224
BOWLING: Anwar 8-1-42-0, Javed 7-1-21-1, Inzamam 1-0-10-0, Mushtaq 9-4-50-0, Saqlain 10-0-38-2, Malik 3-0-17-0, Sohail 9-0-46-0

PAKISTAN
Asim Khan not out 76
Saeed Anwar c David to Raju 74
Manjrekar c Lalit to Asim 25
Sohail not out 76
Extras (b 3, w 4, nb 3) 15
Total (2 wickets, 28 overs) 190
Inzamam-ul-Haq 142, Ahmed Latif 100, Waqar Yousuf, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed and Asim Javed did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-144, 2-162
BOWLING: Smith 7-0-34-0, Prasad 7-0-45-0, Kumble 7-1-39-1, Raju 5-0-51-1, Tendulkar 2-0-18-0
Result: Pakistan won by eight wickets after target had been adjusted to 187 in 33 overs
Man of the match: Asim Khan

Experience favours Cambridge

IF YOU believe the programme pen pictures of the Oxford and Cambridge University football teams, who play at Craven Cottage today, for the 112th time, you will believe anything (David Miller writes). Jonathan Novy, the Oxford goalkeeper, apparently models himself on Peter Schmeichel, and Andrew Bissell, their playmaker, on Justin Fashanu.

This could be a fantasy curtain-raiser to the Boat Race, which follows soon afterwards. Cambridge have had players on YTS apprenticeships with Huddersfield Town and Barnsley, while Oxford are even more cosmopolitan than their opponents, with representatives from Germany, Denmark and Mexico — Rafael Perera hallucinating that he is Asprilla. Even the disillusionment could be fun.

Oxford won narrowly last year, but Cambridge have had a good season and, with several key players remaining from last year, are hopeful of reversing the result. In addition to the continuing support of Fulham Football Club in staging the match, both teams are, for the first time, sponsored by Adidas. Highlights will be shown on Sky.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: (from) J Novy (St Catherine's), S Bissell (Emmanuel), J Henderson (Crown Hall), M Good (Christ's), A Thompson (St Catharine's captain), J White (Trinity Hall), M Pitt (Christ's), K Hayward (Fitzwilliam), M Evans (Homerton), F Miller (St John's), R Morrow (Churchill), D Schmeichel (St John's), A Fraser (Trinity Hall), M Jolley (Downing)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: (from) J Novy (St Catherine's), J Bissell (Emmanuel), J Henderson (Crown Hall), M Good (Christ's), A Thompson (St Catharine's captain), J White (Trinity Hall), M Pitt (Christ's), K Hayward (Fitzwilliam), M Evans (Homerton), F Miller (St John's), R Morrow (Churchill), D Schmeichel (St John's), A Fraser (Trinity Hall), M Jolley (Downing)

البيان

Football narrows great North and South divide

We often over-romanticise the values of sport, but yesterday, in Seoul, I shared for a morning the physical and emotional bonding that has sustained men who have been exiled from their country for 50 years and who believe to the soles of their boots that playing football can give them some sense of lost belonging.

Let me introduce you to a winger they call the Stanley Mathews of Korea — Park Hyung-kun. He is leaner than Sir Stan ever was; at 76, he still plays for an hour every day, a man of even greater longevity. Park intends to keep on playing until they open the border across the military demarcation line that separates the South from North Korea, where he, and all the members of his remarkable football club, were born. They fled south when the Communist police issued warrants on

them, and, for the half a century that they have been cut off even from an exchange of letters with their families, they have ritually lined up on a gravel pitch near I'Acouwan.

At 7am yesterday, these men played a full game. At 9.30, at my request, they indulged in an impromptu 20-minute game, against a side of schoolboys, wearing full German national team replica kit.

The old men beat the boys 3-0. In Park Hyung-kun, you could see the alert eyes, the hunger for the ball, the ability to deliver crosses with either foot to colleagues who deftly scored. Perhaps it was the technique of the old boys, perhaps it was the deference shown by the youngsters, and perhaps it was simply that the expatriates had the unity, the knowledge where each man stood and would move, bred before the fathers of their opponents were born.

On June 1, the expatriate

players from the North hope for a dream. They want South Korea to be granted the right to host the 2002 World Cup, in preference to Japan. If that happens, they believe that it could act as a catalyst to opening up the border, based on outmoded ideological differences, and to allow not only the symbolic game that they plan in Pyongyang, but also the removal of the wall that divides them from their people.

You can sense the hope, the desperation, in these players. "I want to play back home, just once. If necessary, but if not, then at least I hope the World Cup would start a dialogue and I would be able to be buried beneath the goalposts in the town where I came from," Park said, articulating the feeling of losing his job (he was a laboratory technician and never regained such status in exile) and the hope of sharing, through sport, with



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

any relatives who might be alive, an end to a bitter separation. His face is parched, his eyes opaque, but, on the field, he comes alive, a schoolboy within a man, darting here and there, trying to beat an opponent who could be a grandchild.

I was able to take to these men a message of hope from three VIPs. Kim Young-sam, the head of state, had said the previous day: "There is no reason to exclude our neighbour. I will not be president in 2002, but I would attend any game in Pyongyang. It would be my pleasure and I and my Government would start to work on such a hope the

moment the World Cup was granted to South Korea."

His determination was reiterated by Dr Mong-joon Chung, the son of the founder of Hyundai, the mammoth firm which has helped to establish South Korea as one of the most aggressive economies in the world; and Mong-joon's own father is an exile, like the players, from the Communist incursion north of the border. Third, Dr Lee Hong-koo, until recently the prime minister of the southern republic, reiterates that unification will be his life's dream, and he is the man who has, so far, come closest to persuading those in the North to play ball.

With this political unity, with the appreciation in the South that participation in four World Cups has owed so much to the North Korean obsession with the game, football does indeed play an important role in people's aspirations. Five years ago, players from North and South were united in a Korea team that played in the Fifa world youth championship in Portugal. Exchanges were denied once that uplifting tournament was finished, hence the North, despite its recent application to Fifa, the sports world governing body, could not be included in the official bid to stage the World Cup of 2002.

However, if it was Good Friday in Great Britain, it was good and bad in Korea. For, even as the men played, one heard that Joao Havelange, the president of Fifa, had succeeded once again with his hostility towards the Korean bid. He has championed Ja-

pan from the beginning, and now appears to have destroyed attempts from Europe, Africa and Asia to allow Korea and Japan to co-host the World Cup rather than to continue the struggle to beat one another, and to spend millions seeking the nomination.

Havelange is an old man who has lost any sense of sporting value. In Seoul, men of his own vintage gave their reason for playing until death. "Our families — five million of us who came south — can't have forgotten them," they said. "We have no other way of helping them, other than hoping that they will be playing football in the North thinking just the same as we when we play in Seoul."

However, I came across an exception, Hong Duk-young, the goalkeeper of the 1954 Korea World Cup team. Hong

says that he did not feel humiliation when he let in nine goals against Hungary, masterminded by Puskas. "Embarrassed? Only because our forwards did not cross the halfway line to score one goal," he said wryly.

Hong, who later became an international referee, expects to finish his days living on the memories and the photographs. He does not play with the ex-pats, he does not attempt to keep the past alive, and he does not believe, after so long, that any relatives still exist, or that there is hope of a unified North and South Korean World Cup. "It should be football, only football, no politics," he sighed. "I don't think there is a single possibility that we could host 2002 together, the two Koreas have not reached the stage where they could co-operate as hosts."

One forlorn retired sportsman, against 11 who still cling to the dream.

ALAN WELLS

England international tires of extended stay in the comfort zone

Reality beckons Anderton

At 24, Darren Anderton leads a cosy life. He lives in five-bedroomed, mock-Tudor comfort in a smart part of Hemel Hempstead, in Hertfordshire. He drives a Mercedes 500 SL, when the sun shines, or a sponsored Honda Prelude. He still earns a substantial salary, even though, technically, he has not worked for six months.

He wants for little, in a tough world, yet would sacrifice much of what he has for a game of football. Not 15 minutes against Arsenal reserves, half-an-hour against a Korean touring side, or 45 minutes against Brighton reserves — all that he has managed since September. What he needs is a full 90 minutes against anybody, no adverse reaction and a clean bill of health.

Anderton, the free-flowing Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player, has made only five first-team appearances this season: Anderton, the rangy England winger, has not made an international appearance since June last year. A grave loss of pace and precision, to club and country. He will not play over Easter and will then have a maximum of four matches in which to prove his fitness and add to his tally of nine caps, and three goals, during the European championship finals this summer.

Though Terry Venables, the Eng-

Russell Kempson on the trials and tribulations of one of Terry Venables's brightest hopes

land coach, is a loyal admirer, he will insist on conclusive proof that the groin muscle, badly torn during a game against Queens Park Rangers and subsequently requiring surgery, has finally mended. Friendship, forged from the day when the former Tottenham manager signed the raw, gangly youngster from Portsmouth in 1992, will count for nothing in the heat of Euro '96.

"Terry has been very encouraging," Anderton said. "We've spoken a few times and he says that, if I'm not fit for this summer, I should make sure I'm OK for next season. He's told me to be sensible. Take my time, make sure it's right."

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, has adopted a similarly sympathetic approach. "I'm not the best at coming back from injuries. I always want to return too quickly," Anderton said. "No one wants me back more than Gerry, but he said: 'Use your brain. If it's not right, it's not right. Don't do anything silly.'"

Anderton is bearing up well. He is still, essentially, the same fresh-faced, square-jawed lad who left home for the first time when Venables offered Portsmouth £2

million four years ago. More confident, less self-conscious, and he laughs a lot, concluding many sentences with a chuckle.

If he feels frustrated, when the awful realisation of a lost season grips him, he retreats to his family in Southampton, where he was born, seeking support and solace from his father, Norman, a taxi driver, his mother, Jane, his brother, Scott, 22, and his twin brother and sister, Ben and Kelly, 20.

He tries to make the trip once or twice a week. "If I'm up here, and go out, people are always asking me when I'm going to be back [playing]," he said. "It's a bit tiresome: it's nice to get away. I never thought it would take this long. Every time I think I'm getting there, I get another little strain. It does get to me, maybe a bit more than I show, but I keep most of my feelings inside."

Anderton dismisses the inevitable speculation: that his career is over, that he has a crumbling hip condition — "that was quite funny, that one" — and that he is unhappy with his medical treatment from the club. "As long as myself and

Tottenham know what's really going on, that's all that matters," he said.

The days are long. Weights, swimming, running, physiotherapy, kicking a ball against a wall, playing snooker, table tennis, watching the television, another trip to the South Coast. Match days, though, are the worst.

"I go to all the games at White Hart Lane, and go in the dressing-room, to see the guys up, but I end up hating it," he said. "I'm obviously pleased if we win, and it would be great if we could qualify for Europe next season, but I just get this empty feeling. Afterwards, I often wish I'd stayed at home."

Anderton knows that, lurking ever-nearer the surface, is make-your-mind-up time. "I haven't given up on the European finals: all I need is a full 90 minutes to see what happens," he said. "Even after the QPR game, I thought I'd be playing again in three weeks. Then it was three more weeks, then three more... and here I am, six months later, and I still don't really know."

On Wednesday, he tries again: for Tottenham reserves against Bristol City at the Hand Stadium, home of Clevedon Town, of the Beazer Homes League. A venue for Euro '96 it is not, but it could yet hold the key to Anderton's and England's immediate prospects.



Anderton has been left to ponder his future while struggling to overcome a long-term injury

'Stick Man' weighs in to lift Reid

By LOUISE TAYLOR

A TELEPHONE call from Lancashire to Whitley Bay dictated that FA Cup semi-final Sunday this season will remain a landmark for Michael Bridges. Bridges, 17, the Sunderland striker, picked up the receiver at his home to be greeted by Alan Shearer, the Blackburn Rovers and England centre forward, congratulating him on scoring twice in the 3-2 home win over Huddersfield Town last Saturday after going on as a substitute after 75 minutes.

Like Shearer, Bridges is a product of Wallasey Boys Club and was spotted initially by Jack Hixon, a veteran scout based in the North East. Shearer and Hixon remain in regular telephone contact, the latter frequently enquiring about Bridges. Such judgment has been endorsed by the protégé's record of four goals in nine substitute appearances — or 161 minutes — for the leaders of the Endcliffe Insurance League first division.

Bridges has yet to begin a game (he is likely to be a substitute at Barnsley today), but he invariably serves as a match-winning catalyst. It is the same in his 19 youth and reserve team starts, which have yielded 21 goals this season. Small wonder that, with Blackburn, Everton, and Liverpool eager to sign him, Bridges was hastily handed a 2½-year contract at the turn of the year.

"It would be tremendous if I could achieve anything like Alan Shearer has done," Bridges said. "That's what I hope to achieve — he is the best." Shearer's call to the

home that Bridges shares with his parents — a retired policeman and a nurse — was his second, the first coming after Bridges's debut goal in a 2-0 win away to Southend United.

A wiry 6ft 1in and 10st 11lb, Bridges has been dubbed "The Stick Man" by colleagues. Still growing, and most definitely at the lean and lanky stage, he has already been likened to the youthful Trevor Francis. Understandably, Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, has been reluctant to ask too much too soon. "Considering Michael's current state of physical development, I prefer to put him on for short bursts, but he's close to his first start," Reid said.

Yet, this apparent frailty deceives — both goals against Huddersfield being headers,

to complement those scored at Southend and Grimsby with his boot. "I told Michael to go on and get me a goal last week," Reid said with a smile. "but he didn't do what he was told — he got two."

He also earned the sponsor's man-of-the-match award, bottles of whisky and brandy passed on to Paul Stewart and Kevin Ball, his team-mates. Forced to drink orange juice when Reid convened his squad for a few morale-boosting glasses of wine, Bridges is always willing to offer players a lift home in his newly-acquired pride and joy — a second-hand Vauxhall Nova.

An instinctive positional sense combined with that unerring finisher's knack should furnish him with a life rich in

material comforts and personal fulfilment. "He's got something special," Reid said. "Michael has an unusual high-stepping style, and the asset of being able to pull the trigger with both feet — although he is more comfortable shooting with the right. Happily, he's a level-headed lad with sensible parents who are very proud of him, and the only thing holding him back is his lack of strength."

"I'm not a great fan of players working out with weights, but he's doing light circuits, and we've taken advice from dieticians to try to build him up. Now, it's a question of how quickly he develops. When he does, I definitely believe Michael could become one of the really special players."

4 BOTTLES FREE

WHEN YOU BUY 8

12 BOTTLES OF STELLA DRY FOR £8.64 (EQUIVALENT TO 72P PER BOTTLE)



THRESHER

WINE SHOP

ADVENTURES. GUARANTEED.

Single 275ml bottle price £1.08. Prices correct at time of going to press. Available to over 18's only. Offer subject to availability and in Thresher Wine Shops only. Offer runs 3.4.96 to 1.5.96. No further discounts apply.



Bridges: likely to be on the bench against Barnsley



WIN THE ULTIMATE SPORTING EXPERIENCE

YOU CAN BE AT THE SPORTING EVENT OF YOUR CHOICE EACH YEAR UNTIL 2002. SEE US AT PARTICIPATING OUTLETS WHERE YOU SEE THE TROPHY ABOVE.

BODDINGTONS. THE CREAM OF MANCHESTER.

BY PETER BALL

With Juninho playing in only his second home match in nearly two months, Middlesbrough looked the more purposeful side at the start. The Brazilian might have marked his return with a goal, but, after Mustoe had released him, Atherton got back in time

WEDNESDAY (5-3-2): G. Walsh — C. Leming, N. Pederson (sub: P. Whelan, J. Smith), S. Vickers, D. Whyte, Brenco — K. Krichko, G. Kavanagh (sub: C. Hignett, 63).
Musica — J. Florio, C. Freestone (sub: A. Simpel, 84).

THURSDAY-WEDNESDAY (4-5-1): K. Krichko — P. Asherton, J. Newsome, D. Vickers, S. Nicol (sub: L. Briscoe, 84) — G. Krichko, M. Degryse, J. Shindler (sub: Hyde, 75), M. Penbridge, R. Elnter — D. Vickers (sub: D. Kovacevic, 75).
Musica: K. Cooper (Pontypridd).



By ALYSON RUDD

Luton Town's performance, as a side in deep relegation trouble in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, was more predictable. They

Charlton seemed to forget the laws of physics, let alone the laws governing a promotion challenge. Much of their passing was pointless and panic seemed to govern most defensive decisions. Still, Charlton did create sufficient chances to give Feuer. Luton's American goalkeeper, the opportunity to shine. He saved bravely from Leaburn in the

"I think the whole place is getting anxious," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "Perhaps we're running before we can walk."

For Lenny Lawrence, the Luton manager, the result represented a precious point

pool in the FA Cup.
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2) A Petterson — S Brown, C Whyte, R Flutey, J Stuart (sub P Linger. 52min) — M Robson, K Jones, L Bowyer (sub D Whyte. 74), J Robinson — B Allen, C Leaburn
LUTON TOWN (4-4-2) J Fever — G Alexander, S Davis, D Petterson, M Thomas — A Thorpe (sub G Tomlinson. 81), R Harvey (sub M Johnson. 74), G Waddock, B Guernichev — K Grant (sub S Oakes. 76), P Wilkinson
Referee: W Burns

By David Maddock

England have three fixtures, before the championship gets under way, in which to coax casualties back to fitness. They entertain Hungary, before travelling to play against China and Hong Kong.

BY PETER BALL
AND DAVID MADDOCK

"I do not want to be playing for Manchester United if I am not at the very top," he said. "I would prefer to move away, and perhaps play a couple of years in Japan. That may come at the end of my current contract, or maybe a year afterwards."

ARSENAL v LEEDS

[The following page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document.]

Sil Sila can silence the big battalions

G Wingo	7	35	20.0	M Hale	36	195	19.5
R Armstrong	6	30	20.0	S Sanders	3	19	15.8
S Hanbury	7	37	18.9	W Woods	4	27	14.8
P Walwyn	5	32	15.6	T Dulin	28	196	14.3



The diagram illustrates the experimental design across three main stages: Pretest, Training, and Transfer. Each stage involves a 'Pretest' and a 'Posttest' measurement. The 'Transfer' stage is further divided into 'Transfer' and 'Posttest' phases. The diagram shows the progression of participants through these stages, with arrows indicating the flow of the experiment.

Saturday portrait: Ian Botham, by Simon Barnes

Rock'n'roll cricketer out of tune with the need to band together

Before we go any further, it is important to set down one single, ineluctable fact: Ian Botham is the most exciting cricketer that I have ever seen, probably ever will see.

No cricketer ever had a Test series like that series: a pair at Lord's, resigning as captain half a pace ahead of the boot, and then the glorious, impossible transformation — the lion unchained. Ever since, Botham has, perhaps, been paying the price for those brief weeks in 1981: perhaps, in a way, we all have... but, by God, it was worth it.

Still, as Sam Goldwyn said, we have all passed a lot of water since then; and now, even as I write, the votes are being polled — by the ludicrous, antediluvian and altogether cricket-like means of a postal vote — for the post of England selector, and Botham's hat is in the ring.

The Botham bandwagon is actually moving. What is more, Botham sees it as a first step towards "the supreme job". He wants to run English cricket; like Raymond Illingworth, but younger, groovier and more successful. Other people besides Botham believe that he is the man for the job. Inspiring, they say: a motivator; a natural leader.

Well, Botham has always had followers; but, the point is, he did not actually lead them anywhere. It was sufficient that they adored him. Botham has always been a creator of courts, and he demands not equals but courtiers. Frances Edmonds, my old friend, once described Paul Allott, the former Lancashire and England fast bowler, as "a Botham clone, but slimmer and brighter. Who isn't?"

She might have added: "Not quite so good at cricket. Who is?" All the same, Botham seems to have spent an awful lot of his life in the company of men with small moustaches. Many of them also wore the classic Bothamesque "mudflap" hairstyle — short at the front, floppy at the back. Many of them whirled their bats like windmills when they went out to bat.

When trumpeting his case for running the England team,

Botham said: "What matters is the things I would offer, like motivation, encouragement and self-belief. I played with most of these guys, so they trust me. We have the same humour, play the same modern game. I can relate to what they are going through."

He sees himself becoming the great unifying force in English cricket. A look at his curriculum vitae, however, reveals a great talent: not for unification, but for division. The point about Botham is not the various ill-timed remarks, boorish behaviour and the smoking of joints. A tendency to clash with authority is no disqualification from leadership. The point is the problems within the teams for which Botham has played.

You are either on the bus or off the bus. That was always the unspoken team motto, and Beefy

'His curriculum vitae reveals a great talent: not for unification but for division'

— has there ever been a more sycophantic nickname? — was always the driver. Botham, simultaneously, loves being in a team and being in opposition. Thus, he has always created a team within a team. There was always Beefy's good ol' boys, swaggering, noisy, party-going and inclined to parrot Botham's favourite epistle: that life is not a dress rehearsal.

A clique defines itself by those it excludes. Thus, the outsiders — anyone not prepared to be one of Beefy's courtiers — were bores and straights and poofs. C. S. Lewis, the writer and moralist, warned of the perils and temptations of the Inner Ring that exists in every workplace and every social setting. "There would be no fun if there were no outsiders," he said. "The invisible line would have no meaning unless most people were on the wrong side of it."

The great Somerset bust-up of

1986 came about when Vivian Richards and Joel Garner did not have their contracts renewed. The truth behind all the kerfuffle was a determined attempt to break an inner Ring. Botham left Somerset in outrage. Some suggested that this was the grand purpose behind the initial bust-up.

Some saw that Botham, recruiting likely young cricketers to his inner Ring, was a disruptive influence on the cricket, and perhaps on more important matters. The bust-up happened as part of an almost inevitable reaction. Bitterness about it exists still, as Botham's autobiography testifies.

Earlier that same year, Botham was involved in the great "Siege Mentality" tour of West Indies. A surreal business — armed guards in the corridors, Botham refusing to come out of his room but inviting his cronies in. The tour was a personal disaster for him in every possible way.

Flattered and sweet-talked by Tim Hudson, then his agent, Botham had ceased to be a professional cricketer, believing himself to be "England's first rock'n'roll cricketer", as Hudson called him. In fact, and alas, what he had become was a caricature of himself. The Test series was a 5-0 wipe-out, and it was a tour of misery, disruption, division and paranoia... and at its heart was Botham and his inner Ring.

Thus, 1986 was a watershed year for Botham; perhaps the year in which the first instalment of the bill for 1981 became due. Since then, he has certainly found trouble, but it is not the talent for trouble that is the trouble. After all, a man who chases Ian Chappell around a car park can be easy to forgive. The problem is his taste for division. "A man very warm in friendship, very ugly in enmity," Peter Roebuck said, and he should know: the two were on opposing sides during the Somerset bust-up.

In short, Botham lacks the quality of objectivity. One wonders if, as a selector, he would find it possible to reach an objective decision about his friends, cronies and courtiers, and about the rest — the aforementioned bores, straights and poofs.



There is a point to be made here — Botham is not really an unlettered oaf, a simple force of nature. That was merely the part that he once loved to act. He is capable of astute judgments in television commentary and, besides, nobody who loved John Arlott can be all bad.

Botham is already on the MCC cricket committee, which has responsibilities for the laws of the game. His suggestion about extending the area of the pitch on

which bowlers can run in follow-through is intriguing. "It will help both spinners and pace bowlers, particularly on lifeless batting tracks... it will go some way to redressing the current imbalance on flat wickets in favour of batsmen," he said.

The question of whether or not he would have the time or inclination for watching endless county cricket matches to assess form is in the realm of the unknown. Perhaps he would produce nothing

more than gossip and hearsay and a strong voice for his mates, but that is only speculation.

The spectre of Botham as one of a group of selectors is absurd and intriguing. So is the question of him landing the supreme job: surely, an impossible dream. Botham plays his own comparative youth as a strong card: he has only recently turned 40. However, as long as he has friends and cronies in line for England selection, his judgment is likely to be

clouded. That is also apparent from his television commentaries. Perhaps we should wait until the last drinking mate and inner Ring member has retired, and then address the question again.

The thought of Botham as England's first rock'n'roll selector is silly; a rock'n'roll supreme sillier again. Yet, the thought nagged: could he do any worse than the present lot? That is why the Botham bandwagon has begun to move.

Open can ease hard times for England

BY RICHARD EATON

THE finest English Open in its 61-year history, and the pioneering event of the inaugural World Grand Prix circuit, is almost certain to see one of table tennis's great names as its winner. The tournament, which begins in Kettering today, is, therefore, like no other in the world at any time, and is probably the most important outside a world championship that has been staged in England.

Its success is vitally important to the health of the game. If Jean-Michel Saive, the world No. 1, were to meet Kong Linghui, the world champion, in the final on Monday, as expected, and if it were to produce the showpiece occasion that is hoped for, it would do much to make up for the hard times that the English are suffering in the playing arena — the hardest for more than a decade.

With Matthew Syed, the England No. 1, withdrawing with a persistent hamstring injury and Lisa Lomas, the top Englishwoman, sidelined with a shoulder problem that threatens her career, there are no home players capable of reaching the later stages. Andrea Holt, the former national champion, may, however, provide a tough task in the first round for Elena Timina, of Russia, the winner of the Olympic qualifying tournament in Manchester in January.

The women's singles is headed by Chen Jing, one of the game's most interesting figures, who won the Olympic title in 1988 after the Chinese had punished He Zhili, their world champion, for winning in Delhi in 1987 against orders, by refusing to allow her to compete in Seoul. He Zhili defected to Japan, and changed her name — only to be followed by Chen. She, however, went to Taipei which, in the uncertain political climate, may not be helping her table tennis. Chen should meet Wu Na, a former compatriot, in the last eight, and another, Geng Lijuan, a former world No. 1, in the final.

Fraser foxes those in search of famous five



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

SO, AT this season of renewal, as kitbags are taken down from lofts, disappointment is expressed at a failure to put those socks in the wash last September, strategies are discussed — maybe, if I cut down my run, or even tried off spin... — and hope springs eternal, the new *Wisden* appears on the shelves and this column announces the winners of the five cricketers of the year competition.

I had a record entry (thanks to all who had a go) and still nobody managed to guess all five choices of Matthew Engel, the editor of *Wisden*. The five this year are Dominic Cork, Aravinda de Silva, Angus Fraser, Anil Kumble and Dermot Reeve. It was Fraser that foxed them: nobody who got four correct had Fraser.

Most had Mark Ramprakash, instead. Ramprakash had a majestic county season, but a pair in the Lord's Test did rather count against him. Other popular suggestions were Graham Thorpe and Ian Bishop. However, an editor always likes to play a wild card, and so the competition winners are those who did the same thing. The winners are Jon Edgson, Alan Hutchinson, Eric Read, John Pollard and Michael Allen, whose fifth men were David Byas, Mushaq Ahmed, Javagal Srinath, Brian McMillan and Sherwin Campbell.

Congratulations. A copy of *Wisden* will soon be on its way. Best commiserations to the rest: thanks for taking part and better luck next year.

Calamari what?

The 1996 almanac includes an "Index of Unusual Occurrences". Entries include: Batsman retires to attend court hearing; Outfielders forced to stand in sea; Play interrupted by unscheduled broadcast of church service; Sunshine stops play in Old Trafford Test and, finally and gloriously, Fried calamari stopped play.

Missing link

Rex Wallford got only three right in the great *Wisden* competition, but he did send in a nice quiz question. Only one surname has appeared three times in five cricketers of the

year in the past 20 years. Which? Answer below.

a lie detector test seems somewhat extreme."

No one gets away

Now, the ultimate aid in judging a fishing competition: a lie detector. The insurers of the Rapala 2000 competition, an attempt on the record British catch for one of 11 fish species, offers a prize of £50,000. Can anglers be trusted with such glory and lucre available? Rollins, Hudgin and available? Rollins, Hudgin and Hall Entertainment Brokers think not. They have said that anybody who claims the prize must submit to a polygraph test. "We know that the vast majority of anglers are very



To the death

Two brothers were watching a football match in the Bar Magulitis in Tassaglia, Greece. They were Apostolos Merisiotis, 59, and Vaios Merisiotis, 56. They did not speak to each other, but then they had not spoken to each other for 30 years. One man supported Iraklis, the other Panathinaikos; as fate would have it, the match was between these two teams. Iraklis scored first, and Apostolos exulted. Vaios threw a bottle at him, but missed. Mortified, he went home to fetch his rifle. He came back and killed his brother with five shots in the chest. He has not been seen since. The match finished 1-1.

Mug's games

More merry news for those of us attending the Coca-Cola Olympics, which take place in Atlanta in the summer. It takes a lot to shock a New York probation officer, but Rocco Pozzi is shocked. A colleague of his was mugged in Atlanta — right outside their hotel. Which just happens to be the hotel where Olympic officials will be staying during the Games. He asked Bill Campbell, the mayor: "How are you going to cope with the hundreds of thousands you will attract to the Games if you can't protect the city's visitors in March?"

Trim and tidy

Back to footballing haircuts. Claudio Canniggia (hair very long and blond) has been holding out against Daniel Passarella, the Argentina team manager, who refuses to pick long-haired players. Canniggia, however, has capitulated. Only a trim, he said. □ Answer to quiz question: Hughes — Kim in 1981, David in 1988 and Merv in 1994.

For your company golf day...
...it's the business



The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge is a unique and exciting opportunity for your company to enjoy a day of golf and business. It's the perfect way to build team spirit and celebrate success.

How to participate

1. All you have to do to take part in the Challenge is register your golf day.
2. Simply send us the completed form, together with the registration fee of £250 (plus VAT) on or before 1st June 1996, to: The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Haverhill, Northamptonshire NN3 3SL.
3. The day before your golf day, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.
4. The following evening, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.
5. The following morning, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.
6. The following afternoon, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.
7. The following evening, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.
8. The following morning, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.
9. The following afternoon, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.
10. The following evening, you will receive a letter from us containing details of the venue, the tee time, and the names of the other companies taking part.

Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times "Fortune-telling" golf day feature.
- Your golf day featured in The Times "Fortune-telling" golf day feature.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.
- A list of all the companies taking part in your golf day.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is governed by the rules of the game of golf. The winner of the competition will receive a trophy and a certificate. The winner of the competition will receive a trophy and a certificate.

0171 436 3415 or
0141 221 2225 (Scotland)
or by fax to 0171 436 2581

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

TRILITE BARWELL

NEWSTRACK FIBRENET

Company Registration

Company name: _____
Company address: _____
Post Code: _____
Telephone No: _____
Fax: _____
Name of company representative to whom all correspondence will be sent: _____
We are holding a golf day at: _____
Address: _____
Country: _____
On _____ (date) and will be attended by approximately _____ golfers.
If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be decided please leave blank and return us as soon as it is confirmed.

Truly Representative

The header for your form will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as used on section 1 above, will be printed, as will the date and name of the golf club if you require an abbreviation of your company name or need another name altogether.

Please print here: _____

3

I enclose the fee and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £250 (plus VAT) payable to The Times Mees Pierson C.E.E. Please send the completed form to The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Haverhill, Northamptonshire NN3 3SL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

MEES PIERSON
MERCHANDISE MANAGERS SINCE 1790

ASSOCIATED COMPANIES

CITROEN

MARITIME

WATERFORD CRYSTAL

GOLF WORLD

EM

0171 436 3415

European golfers among also rans in last tournament before Masters

Ballesteros and Cejka free to leave for Augusta

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA

IT IS all an odyssey for Alexander Cejka. The first competitive visit to the United States by Europe's newest golfing discovery ended after two rounds of the BellSouth Classic here yesterday. Cejka was in bad humour after his second successive 77, which left him ten over par and 18 strokes behind Gene Sauers, the early second-round leader, at the Atlanta Country Club.

The German's second round was dotted with bogeys and double bogeys — six in all. His face and his demeanour at the end of a round, played in a biting wind beneath a bright

of his magnificent short game. Not until the 18th did we see a glimpse of the old Ballesteros. To one accustomed to seeing him in the trees, in the rough, off the fairway, anywhere other than where he should have been, it was as unexpected as catching a glimpse of a speck of blue sky on a wet day.

Ballesteros's drive found the middle of the fairway, a rare occurrence these days. He swung as smoothly and languidly as he used to for his second shot, sending his ball 150 yards up the right side of the fairway, setting himself up to attack the flag, which was high on the left side of the green.

From there, it was pure Ballesteros. His ball flew at the flag as if guided by radar, pitched six feet short, hopped on and settled 18 inches from the hole. The crowd managed to extract their frozen hands from their gloves long enough to clap and whistle. The Spaniard looked impassive. It was his third birdie in 27 holes.

It was more of the same on his homeward half. Dropped shots on the 1st, 3rd, 7th and 9th and one gleaming birdie, at the short 6th. He totalled 78 for the second day in a row and again Ballesteros will miss the cut, as he has in three of his four tournaments so far this year.

"I have no confidence," Ballesteros said. "My new clubs are fine. My game is fine. My back is fine. I just have no confidence."

Sam Torrance, on the other hand, nearly played really well and is full of confidence. He played ten holes in three under par, wrapped up well against the cold wind. He birdied the 18th, rapping in a 25-footer up and across the slope of the final green. And he wore a smile on his face at the end.

The trouble was that he had

a horrid run of three holes in the middle of his round. Having fought back from three over par after two holes to level par after seven, Torrance then made two simple mistakes that cost him dearly.

On the 13th, a short hole of 156 yards playing downwind, he hit a wedge into the water and though he saved himself slightly by birdieing the hole

with his second ball so only one stroke was wasted, it was a careless way to drop a stroke. Then, on the 14th, he hit his ball from a bunker over the green and into more water to waste another stroke. His third successive bogey contained a measure of bad luck in that when he got to his drive he discovered his ball had a patch of mud on it that

affected its flight on his second shot. The ball wobbled in the air and missed the green. He took three to get even.

It was not even midday when Torrance finished with a 72, for a total of 146, and he faced a long wait to see whether or not he had made the cut. "It's a big difference to get two more days' competitive practice," Torrance said. "It's



Ballesteros, whose poor form has left him short of confidence, missed the halfway cut after a plethora of errors

DETAILS

EARLY SECOND-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 137: G. Sauers, 66, 71; 138: A. Cejka, 68, 70; 139: T. Torrance, 69, 70; 140: D. Ford, 70, 70; 141: L. Brown, 71, 70; 142: J. Ballesteros, 71, 71; 143: M. P. Jones, 71, 72; 144: J. Ballesteros, 72, 72; 145: C. W. Jones, 72, 73; 146: B. Clark, 72, 74; 147: S. Torrance, 72, 74; 148: J. Ballesteros, 73, 74; 149: G. Sauers, 73, 74; 150: A. Cejka, 74, 74; 151: J. Ballesteros, 75, 75; 152: J. Ballesteros, 76, 76.

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 68: J. Wilson, C. Pavin, J. Gallagher, R. Cochran, N. Lantieri, 68; M. Bradley, D. Dault, M. Calaveras, 68; N. Price, 69; P. Stankewicz, 69; R. Blum, L. Clemens, F. Allen, 69; T. Jones, J. Jones, 69; L. Lester, 70; D. Forsman, D. Pratt, S. McCarty, T. Kise, S. Beresh, G. Borge, 71; C. McQuinn, 71; S. Kessler, 71; 72: J. Wootton, 72; 73: A. Lyle, 73; 74: S. Torrance, 74.

blue sky told it all. "I like it here in the US," Cejka said solemnly. "I play good golf. Why did I have such high scores? Ask him up there." He gestulated to the heavens and then added: "Because I play like an idiot."

For Cejka read Ballesteros. There is no respite for the Spaniard, who was six over par at the start of his second round and then began scattering strokes profusely. He dropped one on the 10th, his first, two on the 12th, one on the 13th. He would have dropped another on the 17th if he had not exploded from a bunker with a demonstration

Nottage is bowing out with no regrets

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THERE will be a few regrets but no misgivings when Ken Nottage steps on court tomorrow to play his last serious basketball game. The man who has made more National League appearances, 464, than any other player, will round off his nineteenth season with what he hopes will be a victory for Newcastle Comets over the Leopards in Newcastle Arena.

"They say you know when the time is right and the time is definitely right," Nottage said yesterday. Uppermost among the regrets of the 31-year-old is that, in his time at Crystal Palace, Embassy, Guildford, Sunderland, Solent and now Newcastle, he never won a league title. However, as a member of Sunderland's most charismatic squad, he held aloft the National Cup and world invitational club title in 1991 before the money ran out and the team broke up. He also played for England at every level.

Although Russ Saunders, the Newcastle player-coach, is still going strong at 38, Nottage has decided to call time, two years younger. At 36, he no longer feels that he can give it his best shot. "If you look at the ingredients you need most, which are commitment, motivation and determination, I don't think I can give it the commitment any more," he said.

As head of student marketing at Sunderland University, Nottage has to work a ten-hour day, after which the Comets' practice sessions are not as eagerly anticipated as once they were.

More than any other player, with a possible exception of Saunders, Nottage has experienced the highs and mostly lows with a club, known as Sunderland Scorpions before the franchise was transferred to Tyneside. Consequently, he is pleased to leave with the Comets' future secure in an impressive arena where they are frequently watched by crowds of more than 4,000.

Martin emerges to make a name for herself

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN



Jane Martin: mature

JANE MARTIN, a player of previously unfulfilled potential, yesterday watched Suzanne Horner, the national champion, defeated in the British Open squash championships and then went on to the showcourt at the Cardiff International Arena to remove Liz Irving, the Australian No 3 seed, at the quarter-final stage with the most mature competitive display of her career.

Horner went down 9-6, 9-1, 9-5 in 39 minutes to a superbly concentrated and athletic performance from Michelle Martin, the defending champion from Australia, who thus gained revenge for a first

defeat by Horner, the British champion, in the Abbot Open two weeks ago. "That should put Mrs Horner back in her corner," Martin, 28, said.

The unrelated Jane Martin, 23, from Newcastle, a former British junior champion, might have overheard the comment judging by her later treatment of Irving, a wonderfully gifted and athletic player now approaching the downturn of a long career at 31.

Martin clipped Irving back into the corners of the Perspex showcourt, waiting patiently for chances to execute drop shots, and emerged the steeper and stronger player to win 9-1, 6-0, 5-9, 9-7, 9-2 in 71 minutes.

With Cassandra Jackman, from Norfolk, the No 4 seed, due to meet Fiona Gieves, of Gloucester, in a later quarter-final, England will have two women in the semi-finals today, both meeting Australians; Sarah FitzGerald was scheduled to meet Carol Owens in the last women's quarter-final.

Hopes of a similar pattern in the bottom half of the men's draw faded when Mark Chaloner failed to repeat his World Open victory over Michelle Martin's brother, Brent, the No 3 seed in Cardiff. Martin will now play Rodney Eyles, the No 2 seed, in an all-Australian semi-final.

In the top half of the draw, England had an interest in both of the quarter-finals last night with Paul Johnson, 23, the Kent player, meeting Julien Bonatet, of France, and Paul Gregory, the Croydon-born Greece No 1, meeting Jansher Khan.

Of all the Martins reaching the semi-finals stages, however, it was the breakthrough by the Newcastle woman that caught the imagination. Jane Martin is a product of the Northern Centre of Squash Excellence in Durham and, more lately, an associate of Chaloner's at the Herts Country Club in Welwyn Garden City.

"I have been working with John Milton for the past six months in the Prospects group

she said. "We all live in the same house and train and work together. It's given a great team mentality and, for me, provided a base of strength from which to play with better tactics and more intent. Basically, John has taught me to stop running around like a headless chicken."

From 7-6 down in the fourth game, Martin was anything but headless. She offered Irving only a single unforced error in two dozen rallies while reaping a dozen or more as she stretched her opponent with increasing authority.

Results, page 37

Cartmell replenishes Guildford challenge

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN AND ALIX RAMSAY

GUILDFORD made a satisfactory start on the first day of the men's European Cup Winners' Cup hockey tournament in The Hague yesterday. They defeated SKA Ekaterinburg, from Russia, 3-1, and Dukheim, of Germany, their main rivals in pool A, drew 2-2 with Bohemians Praha, of the Czech Republic, after missing a penalty stroke.

The bustling tactics of the Russians disturbed Guildford's rhythm, but, after 22 minutes, Hall put them ahead with a well-taken goal. Six minutes into the second half, however, Ekaterinburg levelled with a goal by Lutikov from a short corner.

Cartmell, a substitute, put some life into the Guildford attack and subsequently retook their lead in the 51st minute. Guildford were still hard pressed to subdue their opponents and it was not until a minute before the end that Williams scored to make the match safe. Guildford, who must finish top of the pool to qualify for the final on Monday, play the Germans tomorrow.

In pool B, Gordonians, the Scottish club, were beaten 1-0 by Valdeuz, of Spain.

In the women's tournament, in Rotterdam, Hightown were nearly left high and dry as

they began their challenge. A lack of water for preparing the pitch forced the schedule to be delayed for 90 minutes.

It was not the best way to prepare for a match and on Hightown finally got started against Dinamo Somy, from the Ukraine, they were in trouble. A goal down at half-time, they were unable to turn things around until the second half. Then, looking more like their old selves, they were set on their way by Tina Cullen, their leading goalscorer this season, and cruised to a 4-1 victory.

Cullen settled her side's nerves when she cancelled out Irina Kraseva's first-half goal after 45 minutes. One minute later, Maggie Soutyave, the player-coach, led by example and put Hightown ahead for the first time. After that, Hightown were in complete control, with Jackie Crook scoring the third goal five minutes later and Cullen rounding off with her second goal with three minutes to go.

After such a fraught start, Hightown's hopes will have been raised by the results of the other group matches. Berliner, the favourites, struggled to beat Sardinia, of Spain, 1-0, while Pegasus, from Ireland, held Stade Fraizais to a 0-0 draw.

Hayles hits top gear to seal victory

ROB HAYLES, who successfully mixes his cycling programme between track and road — witness his two national track titles last year and a stage victory in the Tour of Langkawi in Malaysia last month — came close to a rare defeat in the track programme at Herne Hill yesterday (Peter Bryan writes).

In the ten-minute pursuit last year, Hayles eliminated all his rivals, including Graeme Obree. Yesterday, he used new wheels and his rear gear sprocket appeared not to have been screwed sufficiently tightly; for the first 200 yards, he looked as though he was pedalling on thin air. Fortunately, his starting thrust remedied the fault just in time to prevent him from being caught by Peter Main, who had started from the station 75 yards behind.

Once Hayles got into his rhythm, he began a relentless elimination exercise against his five rivals. He covered 8,035 kilometres, finishing clear of Matthew Illingworth (7.923) and Bryan Steel (7.888), who were the only ones to last the full time. Hayles is the first rider in a quarter of a century to win the event in successive years. Hayles later won the 22.5 kilometres "golden wheel" race.

Hendry undone by Bond

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY spent Thursday evening watching *Get Shorty* at a local cinema, but a viewing of *The Long Good Friday* would have been more appropriate considering his 5-4 defeat by Nigel Bond in the last 16 of the British Open snooker tournament at Plymouth yesterday.

Hendry, the winner of this event in 1988 and 1989, had prevailed in 11 of his previous 12 meetings with Bond, including an 18-9 victory in the final of the Embassy world championship last year, and was expected to progress with ease. However, the unforced errors and ill-advised shot selections, that have cost him dear on so many occasions during a disappointing second half of the season, left Hendry vulnerable, and ultimately his looseness was punished.

Hendry, generally unimpressive en route to a flattering 5-1 win over Joe Swail in the previous round, was disgusted with the performance, which puts his six-year reign as world No 1 under serious threat. "I missed so many balls by so far it was embarrassing," Hendry said.

"I couldn't put a long ball to save my career, but, although I played terrible snooker, I've always maintained that what ever happens here will not have any bearing on what happens at The Crucible."

While it is true that Hendry has made similarly early exits from the immediate pre-world championship event on the circuit before this year, he will travel to Sheffield knowing his 5-4 defeat by Nigel Bond in the last 16 of the British Open snooker tournament at Plymouth yesterday.

That has not been a problem for John Higgins, his fellow Scot, who reached the quarter-finals yesterday with a 5-3 victory over Stephen Lee and



Bond: rare victory

Lampard fourth after two clear rounds

DI LAMPARD, of Great Britain, finished fourth in the ICA showjumping trophy opening class in Gothenburg yesterday. Two smooth clear rounds on the 12-year-old Abbeval Dream bode well for the Volvo World Cup qualifier tomorrow, but the pair's time left the winning slot open for Markus Fuchs, of Switzerland, on Interpane Rendijk. Michael Whitaker rode the nine-year-old Magic Carpet, who jumped well until lowering both parts of the double in the jump-off.

Lampard and Whitaker need high places in the last European World Cup qualifier to join Nick Skelton and John Whitaker at the final in Geneva this month.

□ Ireland's plan to host the 1998 World Equestrian Games has collapsed because the Irish Government's offer of £1.5 million for the project has been withdrawn. Lack of agreed television coverage meant that no significant sponsorship had been attracted to the project.

Davies five off lead

GOLF: Laura Davies, of Great Britain, was five strokes off the pace after the opening round of the Twelve Bridges LPGA Classic in Lincoln, California, yesterday. Emily Klein, of the United States, led the field by two strokes after a 65, with Davies among those on 70, one under par. Klein's round included three birdies and an eagle in five holes. Allison Finney shot 67 to lie second, with Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, the leading European after a 69.

Race opens in tragedy

MOTOR RALLYING: Three mechanics were drowned on the first day of the Safari Rally in Kenya yesterday. They were killed when their Land Rover support vehicle was washed away by a flash flood as they tried to negotiate a river crossing, organisers said. Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, had gained a narrow lead in his world Subaru by the end of the day. Colin McKee, of Scotland, the world champion, finished third.

Haynes declares

CRICKET: Desmond Haynes, the former Barbados and West Indies opening batsman, formally announced his retirement from international cricket yesterday. Haynes, 40, informed the West Indies Cricket Board by a fax sent through Sussex County Cricket Club, where he has been appointed coach. He holds the world record of carrying his bat through an innings three times in Tests and is the only man to bat through both innings of a Test.

Strong field for Putter

GOLF: Gary Wolstenholme, a member of the Great Britain and Ireland five who captured the Walker Cup from the United States at Royal Portcawli last September, is among the favourites for the traditional season pipe-opener, the 72-hole Duncan Putter over Southerndown today and tomorrow. Wolstenholme, from Bristol and Clifton, won the putter in 1994, but faces strong competition this time from one of the strongest fields assembled.

Alone on the day run

CANOEING: Robin Williams and Ewan Cox were the only crew to attempt the coveted "day run" in the Devizes to Westminster canoe race yesterday. First away at 7am, the Wey Kayak crew set their sights firmly on the evening tide while Mark Phillips and Richard Lewis, of the Royal Marines, their main rivals, left Devizes at 4pm, aiming to complete the course on this morning's tide. In the junior race, Peter Burbridge and Andrew Webb led by 14 minutes.

Bjorkman defiant in heat of battle

THOMAS ENQUIST overcame a difficult start and Jonas Bjorkman showed his fighting qualities on a tennis court to give Sweden a 2-0 lead in their Davis Cup quarter-final against India in Calcutta yesterday. Bjorkman defeated Leander Paes 1-6, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 in 3½ hours, while Enquist beat Mahesh Bhupathi 6-7, 7-6, 6-1, 6-1.

By the final set, both Bjorkman and Paes were drained by the notorious heat and dampness of Calcutta and began to hit the ball like punch-drunk boxers.

In another quarter-final, in Limoges, France, Cedric Pioline gave the home team a 1-0 lead over Germany. Pioline threatened to run away with his match against David Prinosil after taking the first set in 25 minutes, but Prinosil rallied before subsiding 6-0, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Todd Martin, leading off for the United States in their quarter-final against the Czech Republic, powered his way past Petr Korda, winning 6-2, 6-4, 7-5.

THE TIMES

SPORTS SERVICE

RACING

Commentary

Call 0891 500 123

Results

Call 0891 100 123

FOOTBALL

Reports and scores from the

FA Carling Premiership

Call 0839 555 562

Reports and scores from the

Eddleigh Insurance League

Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate. 49p per min at all other times

Clinton approved Iran's secret arms deals with Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON personally approved covert shipments of Iranian arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina two years ago, despite repeated assertions that America was abiding by a Balkan arms embargo and had pledged to isolate Tehran as a supporter of terrorism.

Two top American diplomats, acting on instructions from the White House and the State Department, are reported to have told Croatia's President Tudjman in early 1994 that the United States would raise no objection to arms being smuggled through Croatia and into Bosnia.

Long suspected by both Britain and France of turning a blind eye to shipments from the Middle East, and specifically Iran, the White House will suffer intense embarrassment over yesterday's revelations in the *Los Angeles Times*. At the time, America's allies involved in the United Nations protection force were concerned that a weapons influx could escalate the conflict and bring revenge attacks against peacekeeping troops. More immediately, the Administration, whose soldiers are with the Nato implementation force in Bosnia, has been confronted by a reinforcement of the Iranian influence it had tried to contain.

Larry Eagleburger, Secretary of State in the Bush Administration and a frequent critic of Mr Clinton's Bosnia policy, described the decision as "the height of insanity". He added: "We are inviting Bosnian Islamic connections with a terrorist state that wishes us as much damage as they can possibly inflict upon us."

The operation, which included the smuggling of anti-tank weapons, mortars, surface-to-air missiles, AK-47 rifles and ammunition, is said to have continued until January, even after the deployment of 20,000 American troops to the region.

The White House offered a curt statement last night which did little to refute the allegations. "The United States has always maintained that it upheld the letter of the law and the requirements of the United Nations Security Council resolution [the arms embargo]," said one official.

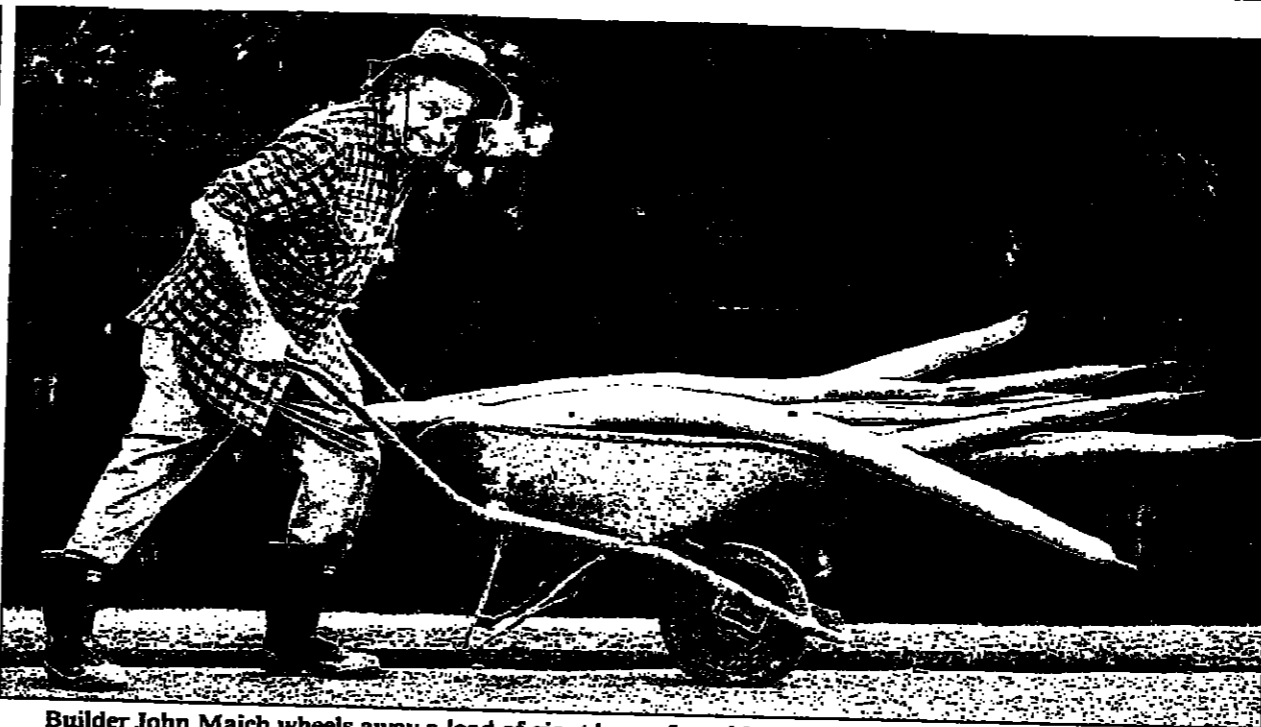
However, the report, a detailed analysis of how the operation was hatched, said Mr Tudjman had raised the prospect of secret weapons shipments with US diplomats in Zagreb and asked them to glean a response from Washington.

After consulting both Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser, and Strobe

Talbot, the Deputy Secretary of State, the two diplomats — Peter Galbraith, the ambassador to Croatia, and Charles Redman, the special envoy — relayed the message to Mr Tudjman that there would be no American objection to the arms pipeline. Mr Clinton is said to have participated in the decision.

The shipments not only helped the Bosnian army, but were critical to the strength of the Croatian forces, which took a cut of as much as 30 per cent and whose Krajina offensive last year led to the fragile peace accord signed at Dayton, Ohio, in December.

The Iranian link which has grown as a result is now proving an obstacle to the implementation of the four-month-old peace accord. Despite repeated demands from Washington that the Bosnian Government expel Iranian military advisers, it has found little incentive to do so.



Builder John Maich wheels away a load of giant beans from his garden. His ambition is a 10ft-long bean

Jack and the giant beanstalk

JOHN MAICH is known to his friends as Mr Bean — justifiably so after breaking the world record with his New Guinea runners (Amanda Loose writes).

The biggest of the 400 beans in his back garden in Helensville, near Auckland, is 6ft 6in long with a girth of 14.5in. The previous record — 3ft 6in — was set in 1993 by a farmer from North Carolina. Unfortunately, the beans are "too tough to eat", says Mr Maich, who feeds his ambitions with tonnes of compost and heaps of manure. If you do that every day for five months, you are in business. His aim now is to grow a 10ft bean.

Rio police seize cache of cocaine-filled Easter eggs

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

POLICE in Rio de Janeiro yesterday uncovered a cache of hundreds of ornately decorated Easter eggs stuffed with cocaine, just days after they announced their biggest haul of the drug during a raid on a house in the impoverished north side of the city.

The handmade chocolate eggs were

filled with plastic bags of cocaine and according to police were meant as Easter gifts for "special clients".

The latest find has heightened fears that Rio has become South America's biggest transit port for drugs en route to the European market.

On Wednesday police confiscated a shipment of more than 500lb of cocaine and 1,500lb of marijuana in the northern district of Piedade. The

cochine was compressed into solid slabs but looked like salt bricks, which were due to be loaded on to a cargo vessel. They arrested a Peruvian, two Colombians and two Brazilians who are thought to have belonged to a regional cartel that ships cocaine into Europe via Rome and Amsterdam.

However, police confiscate only a tiny fraction of the cocaine that comes through Rio, and it is estimated that

more than 200 tonnes of the drug is transported through the city every year.

Rio's most notorious drug trafficker, Julio César Sabino, has been on the run for months and hides out in a densely-populated slum. Each time the police approach the shanty town armed gangs let off fireworks and rounds of ammunition to warn him of their arrival.

Brown's jet lacked latest landing aid

BY TOM RHODES

THE Air Force plane that crashed near Dubrovnik, killing Ron Brown, the American Commerce Secretary, and his party lacked a widely available modern navigational aid for landing in bad weather.

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, said defective instruments could have caused the accident in which 35 government officials, business executives and civilians perished after the T43A, the military equivalent of a Boeing 737, plunged into the 2,300ft Hill St John, two miles north of the runway in Croatia.

"It was a classic sort of accident that good instrumentation should be able to prevent," Mr Perry said. He did not specify, however, whether he was referring to instruments on the ground or on the plane.

The pilots were following a ground radio beacon with their radio magnetic indicator equipment when the

plane apparently veered off the normal coastal approach to Dubrovnik airport and flew through the nearby mountainous region.

Pentagon officials said yesterday that the modified Boeing was due next year to receive a global positioning system (GPS) that is one of the most reliable navigational aids for many military pilots. Had the plane carried a GPS, the pilots would have been able to pinpoint the runway in spite of the blinding rainstorm surrounding the Adriatic port at the time.

Instead those in the cockpit, Captain Ashley Davis, the commanding officer, and Captain Tim Schafer relied on a 1950s system, a non-directional beacon (NDB), that provides little information to the pilot and is subject to distortion in bad weather.

Last night, American officials in Dubrovnik confirmed that all 35 bodies had been recovered at the crash site and will be flown home today for formal identification.

FORTE HERITAGE BREAKS SAVE 20%

FROM **£39** *
per person, per night
Based on 2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast

£39-£44*	£55-£76*
BAMFORD The Whately Hall	ASCOT The Berystede
BRANDON The Brandon Hall	BATH The Francis
HELFORD The Green Dragon	BAZINGWORTH The Dart Marina Hotel
MALLOCK BATH The New Bath Hotel	GLASGOW The Swan
QUINDLE The Talbot	HELMISLEY The Black Swan
SOUTHWELL The Saracen's Head	MALLOWS The Compleat Angler
THETFORD The Bell	MALLOWS The Avonmouth Hotel
	RUSSARDS Russards Hotel
	ST. ANDREWS The Shakespeare
	STANTFORD-UPON-AVON The Shakespeare
	ULSWATER Learning House
	WINDERMERE The Old England
	WINDSON The Castle Hotel
	WOODSTOCK The Bear
ARRINGTON The Upper Reaches	
CANTERBURY The Chaucer Hotel	
CHRYSTON Blossoms Hotel	
DOVEDALE Perennial of the Peak	
FOREST OF DEAN The Speech House	
MAULBOROUGH The Castle & Ball	
NORTH BARNACK The Marine	
PADSTOW The Metropole	
RYE The George	

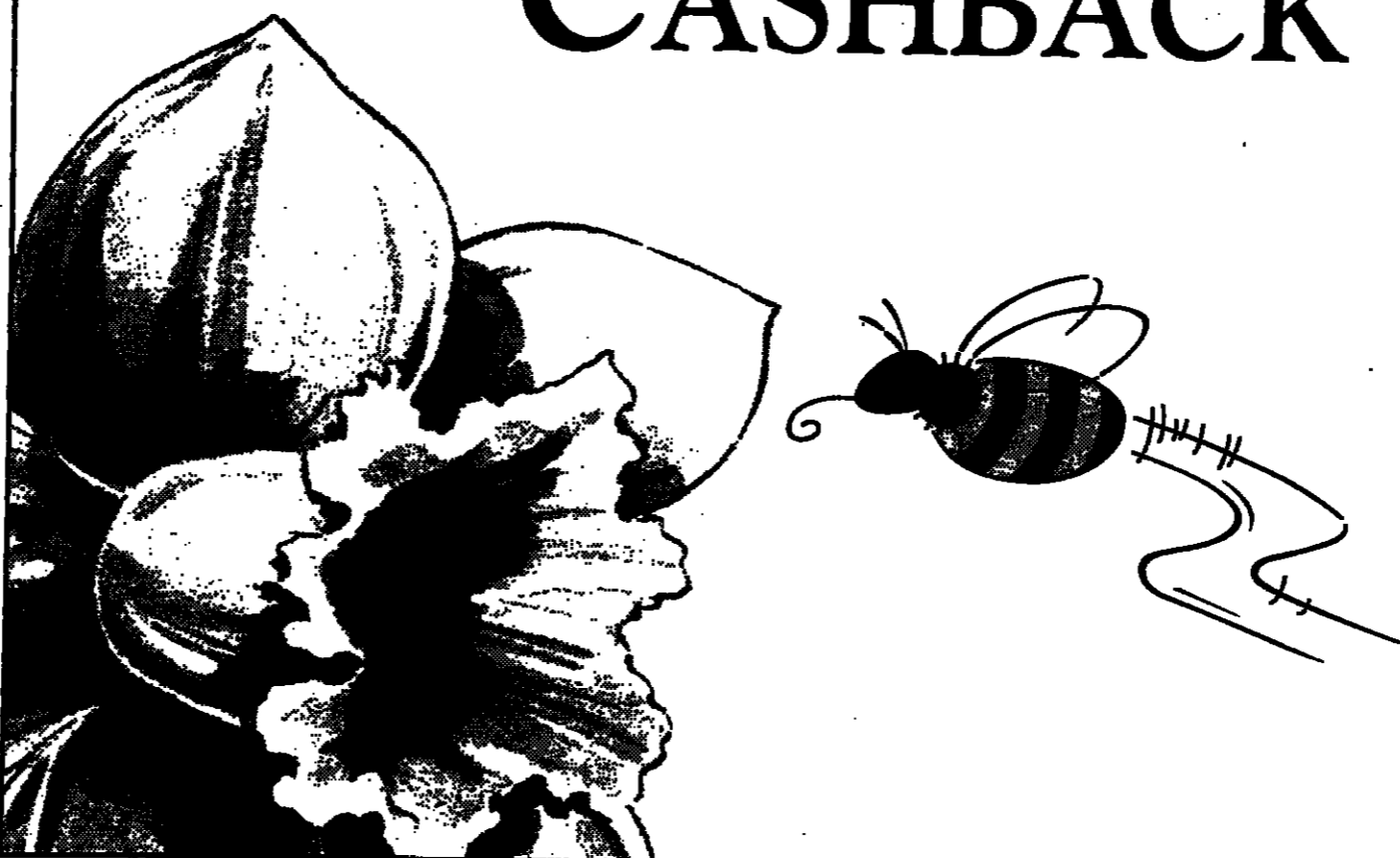
*Prices represent a 20% discount on weekend rates from the Forte Leisure Breaks 1996 Brochure. Different rates apply for midweek stays. All stays are 2 nights.
Prices are per person per night including accommodation, dinner, traditional breakfast, VAT at 17.5%, based on two adults sharing a twin/double room or for one person in a single room.
Offer available until 30th April 1996

FORTE
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION CALL

0345 40 40 40
QUOTING REFERENCE F734 (or contact your local Travel Agent)
For other offers please see Teletext page 262

All bookings are subject to availability with only a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. These rates cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Offer is only valid at the hotels shown. Where single rooms are not available a supplement may be charged. Please ask Reservation Agents for details and costs.

MORTGAGES WITH UP TO £7,500 CASHBACK



For more information, call into your local branch or call us free on

0800 80 80 80

QUOTING CODE 1542,
7 days a week, 8am to 8pm.

T/6.4.96/MCCS



No-one's busier on your behalf

Cashback quoted only available to first-time buyers, customers moving house or re-mortgaging to N&P from another lender.
The Inland Revenue has said that cashbacks may be subject to Capital Gains Tax. Cashbacks calculated as a percentage of the advance up to a maximum cashback of £7,500. Your cashback will be credited to an N&P Instant Reserve deposit account on completion of your mortgage.
A charge over your property is required. Mortgages subject to status and satisfactory valuation. Applicants must be 18 or over. Written quotations available on request from National & Provincial Building Society, Provincial House, Bradford BD1 1NL.
National & Provincial Building Society which represents only the N&P Marketing Group, is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Popular strongman in a wheelchair emerges from shadows as favourite to be next Chancellor

Kohl's prince in waiting

WOULD German voters accept a Chancellor in a wheelchair? The question may seem to be in dubious taste, but it is beginning to preoccupy the strategists and party plotters in Bonn as they look for a successor to Helmut Kohl.

Herr Kohl turned 66 last week and has been taking stock. If he is to step down before the 1998 elections he must appoint a successor within the next 18 months. Even if he intends to fight for re-election and step down shortly afterwards, the crown prince has to be identified soon.

The issue has been deliberately blurred by the Christian Democrats, and as long as Herr Kohl can win elections for them it is regarded as folly to talk about retirement. However, one man, trusted and respected by the Chancellor, has been emerging firmly from the shadows: Wolfgang

BERLIN FILE

by ROGER BOYES



Schäuble. He is the real strongman of the party.

One problem: Herr Schäuble, shot by a lunatic in 1990, is paralysed from the waist down. The Chancellor does not regard that as an insurmountable problem. On a visit to his colleague after the assassination attempt, the German leader brought a biography of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. "But he had polio," Herr Schäuble said, "what I have is something completely different."

The 52-year-old southerner quickly recovered his confidence, however. He used an

adaptive wheelchair to train his upper body, recruited a young team of helpers, and persuaded the planners of the new parliament building to take into account his special needs. As Christian Democratic parliamentary leader — in effect, chief whip — he has been working 16-hour days and in his own opinion has shown "that I am fit for any job in political leadership". That phrase was the broadest hint of his true ambitions.

His popularity has grown over the past five years and he almost always comes near the top of opinion polls. In parliament he is the master of the acid put-down. A book, dictated to friendly journalists, set out his concern with Germany's new national interests. That, too, caught the popular mood.

Since his days as Interior Minister (before and after the shooting) he has built up a useful reputation as a law and order man. Above all, he is a plant thinker and is capable of engineering new political alignments.

However, the question about his electability still hangs in the air. Modern statesmanship demands much travel and physical energy, sometimes when Herr Schäuble clenches his forehead during a speech it seems to television viewers that he is fending off pain. These doubts can to some extent be sidestepped in the way that power is handed from Herr Kohl to Herr Schäuble. One idea is that the Chancellor fights the next election with Herr Schäuble chosen by Christian Democrat deputies as his successor, and later stands down to allow the new Chancellor to fight the following polls as the incumbent. So far the official line is strict silence. Herr Kohl has a talent for political timing and he knows that the politician who jumps too early jumps too short.



Wolfgang Schäuble who was paralysed by a gunman in 1990

Bread and water as carnivore carnival sours

THE fundamental fault line of German politics is between carnivores and herbivores. The hysteria about "mad cow disease" has forced politicians to take sides: to eat beef or eat broccoli. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has once again demonstrated his shrewd sense of timing by going on an Easter diet, thus avoiding tabloid inquiries about the beef on his plate.

The first week of the crash diet allows the German leader to consume only water. During the second week he can eat two dry bread rolls a day and glasses of milk, but for the time being, no beef. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, has come out firmly in favour of the Sunday roast. The farmers' lobby in his native Bavaria is powerful and it would be folly for him to turn to veggie burgers at such a critical moment. Others are not so sure. Ursula Kinkel, whose husband, Klaus, is the Foreign Minister, is switching to fish for Easter lunch. Social Democrats mumble about the need to balance their diet or blame their defection from beef on vegetarian spouses and children.

The BSE scare is now so extreme that Germans are worried not only about chocolate, lipstick and jellybabes but also about leather shoes (the consumer hotline advises "don't eat them"). Die Zeit argues that if the entire beef herd has to be destroyed because of a dozen human deaths, then all Germany's cars should be scrapped in response to the 8,000 people killed on the roads every year.

The crisis is now a matter of political definition. Is it a patriotic duty to eat German beef? Will the butcher regard you as a coward and subversive if you do not shop as usual? There are no easy answers but remember, Hitler was a vegetarian.

Taking tough decisions at the top

NEW significance is being given to the term "summit meeting" by a group of intrepid German chief executives. Every year at about this time top managers like Hubert Burda, the publisher, Ulrich Cartellieri of Deutsche Bank and Jürgen Schrempf of Daimler-Benz duck out of view. Their secret is now out: they go on four-day mountain expeditions with the climber Reinhold Messner. Every year these captains of industry tackle a different summit.

Once they struggle to the top and pitch their tents the talk, according to Herr Messner, turns to how to save jobs, stimulate the economy and shake up Germany. Since the group also includes the chief executive of Lufthansa and the development head of BMW, it is clear that some powerful decisions are being framed in high places. Trade unionists, however, have not been invited to join this strangely Germanic club.

Space expert says obsolete shuttles risk astronauts' lives

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

NASA's space shuttle fleet is obsolete, expensive and a grave risk to those who fly in it, according to an aerospace expert who spent 23 years working on shuttle-related projects.

Likening the shuttle to "an

old house in Hampshire", Gordon Reiter, a former senior executive at Hughes Aircraft's space division, said the age of the spacecraft and the stress imposed on its thousands of components by each launch made an accident inevitable "sooner or later".

After recent technical hitches, including the failure of a

set of cargo bay doors to open automatically on its latest mission, NASA is seeking to raise public confidence in the shuttle before using it to start building the international space station next year.

The agency's public relations efforts will not be helped by Mr Reiter's remarks. As assistant director of Hughes

Aircraft's advanced government programmes division until retiring in 1989, he designed "Earth observation" instruments for the CIA as well as commercial communications satellites and supervised their installation.

"The shuttle is a '70s bird wearing out in the late 1990s," he wrote in a letter to the Los

Angeles Times this week. "Atlantis got home this time after many malfunctions, but for how long? In my estimation it will be only a short time until we kill ten or so more of our most capable citizens."

NASA is yet to respond to the letter, but has denied there was any pattern to its fleet's problems.

China tests views on handover

Hong Kong: China said it had received "many positive responses" from Hong Kong residents to an announcement it placed in the colony's press this week, inviting opinions on next year's handover (Tom Walker writes).

An official from the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee, which placed the announcement, said there had been hundreds of calls on the telephone and fax lines advertised in independent English and Cantonese papers. He declined to discuss the content of the calls, however.

The committee is widely reviled in Hong Kong as the harbinger of a rubber-stamp legislature that will quickly stifle democracy. Local commentators have dismissed the attempt to canvass local opinion as window-dressing. It comes after a series of heavy-handed blunders by the committee that have wrecked public confidence in Peking's intentions.

Rangoon attacked over slave labour

By LEVIA LINTON

THE junta in Burma is using slave labour and relocating people to prepare the country for a planned influx of thousands of tourists this year, according to the Burma Action Group, UK.

The group's report quotes an estimate from Human Rights Watch/Asia that more than two million people, including children, have been forced to work with prison gangs. Scores have died during the building of the infrastructure for tourism, according to the action group's report.

Tourism is booming in Burma as visa restrictions have been relaxed. More than 95,000 people visited Burma last year, compared with 9,000 in 1992. The military dictatorship hopes that more than 500,000 tourists will visit this year and it has declared 1996 "Visit Myanmar [Burma] Year".

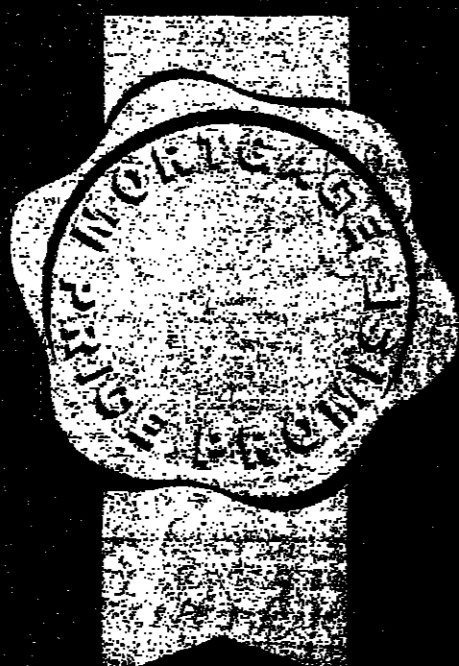
Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel peace prize winner and

leader of the opposition party which won the 1990 election but was denied power, urged tourists to keep away. Daw Suu Kyi, who was placed under house arrest for six years, said: "Those foreign businessmen, who come here to strike up deals while ignoring the reality, should know that we are all suffering. They need to be reminded that this is one of the most brutal military regimes in the world and putting money into the country now is simply supporting a system that is severely harmful to the people of Burma."

Yvette Mahon, of the action group, said: "People should be aware that by visiting Burma they are lending legitimacy to a cruel and greedy regime, damaging the democratic movement that struggles to combat it, and sanctioning the abuse and suffering of Burma's people, many of whom have lost their lives in the name of tourism."

"The lowest-cost mortgages over the last 5 years from any major high street lender."

What Mortgage awards 1996



As our two What Mortgage awards confirm, C&G's commitment to reducing mortgage costs is paying dividends, helped in no small measure by our Mortgage Price Promise.

And our Promise means our standard variable mortgage rate is currently down to a competitive 6.95% 2.25% APR.

There's no valuation fee to pay with any C&G mortgage and our 'no strings' policy means we don't charge mortgage indemnity premiums and we don't insist you buy your insurance from us.

With a C&G Cash Gift Mortgage you also receive up to £7,500 as a gift just a few days after you take out your mortgage. The Cash Gift will be equal to 3% of the amount you borrow.

You can even arrange your mortgage by phone through C&G Mortgage Direct if visiting a branch is inconvenient.

For details of how you could benefit from these offers, including our Mortgage Price Promise, visit your nearest C&G or Lloyds Bank branch or call us today.

CALL US NOW. RING FREE ON
0800 272 131
OR FAX 01452 373 681
INTERNET: www.cheltglos.co.uk

To: Cheltenham & Gloucester, FREEPOST, Gloucester GL4 7BR.
Please send me details of your Cash Gift Mortgage and Mortgage Price Promise (1 cm over the age of 18)

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ Initial(s) _____
Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel. _____

C&G
Cheltenham & Gloucester
We're run to make you richer

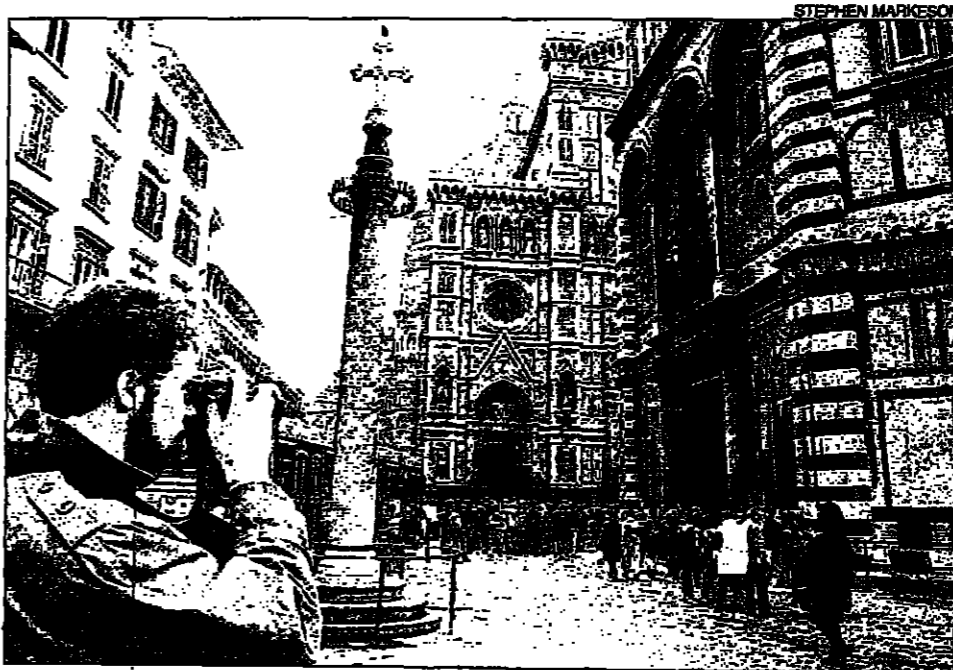
C&G MORTGAGES - ALSO AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF LLOYDS BANK.

The Cash Gift Mortgage is at C&G's standard variable mortgage rate. You will need to put down a minimum personal deposit of 10% or more (5% for existing C&G or Lloyds Bank mortgage customers moving home). The Cash Gift is 3% of the loan amount up to a maximum payment of £7,500. The Cash Gift must be repaid if, within the first five years, the mortgage is redeemed or converted to another C&G mortgage unless it is at our standard variable mortgage rate (including Cash Gift and any special offers available at the time). If the loan is repaid on a proprietary basis, typical example assumes an interest rate of 6.95% and an interest only loan of £50,000 secured over 25 years and a purchase price of £70,000. 300 monthly payments of £263.52 out of tax at 15%. The original £50,000 must be repaid at the end of the mortgage term. Total amount payable £137,216.04 including C&G's redemption administration charge (currently £35) and interest. APR 7.22% (variable). You must be at least 18 years old to apply for a loan. Please ask us if you would like a written quotation. Before agreeing a loan we will normally value the property and will assess your ability to meet the repayments. All loans will require security in the form of a mortgage over the property. Interest rates may vary during the period of the loan. Although there is no application or valuation fee for any C&G mortgage, if you want to arrange a C&G fixed-rate mortgage there is a reservation charge to secure fixed-rate funds.

Cheltenham & Gloucester plc, Barnett Way, Gloucester GL4 9RL

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

What Mortgage awards 1996: Best value-for-money standard variable rate mortgages over the last 2 and 5 years, of all national building societies and banks, based on a loan of £50,000.



Tourists gather to admire Brunelleschi's masterpiece, the marble cathedral in Florence

Florence strategists defend city from tourist invasion

By RICHARD OWEN

AS THE spring invasion of Tuscany gets under way, the authorities in Florence are planning "drastic measures" to limit the number of visitors allowed into the city centre.

The Renaissance marvel celebrated by authors from Browning to E. M. Forster still exerts such magic that it is in danger of submerging under a human tide, attracting 50,000 people a day. Tourist coaches visiting the centre have risen to 500 daily and are often double and triple-parked along the Arno river and in the ancient squares clustered round Brunelleschi's great cathedral.

"We are choking to death," said Amos Cecchi, head of the traffic department, which began monitoring the flow of people and vehicles a year ago. "We have to find a systematic way of limiting access to hotels, museums, theatres and parking spaces

while at the same time making Florence a welcoming place."

Queues for the Uffizi museum this week have been half a mile long — with the Easter weekend still to come. "There is a human wall of German and Japanese tourists, not to mention noisy school parties," noted *Corriere della Sera*. "The museums of Florence cannot cope." Most are understaffed and some are only open part-time.

The authorities fear the city's problems will get worse when the European Union holds two summits in Florence in June.

The city was chosen, in part, because it is the home town of Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister. One official said: "1996 will be the year the museum city becomes an international showcase." Signor Cecchi said that from May 1 the number of coaches allowed into the

centre would be cut to 150 a day and they would need permits. A limited number, costing £40, would be available in advance, and two checkpoints would be set up at motorway exits from the north and south to examine permits. Most coaches will have to park in two new areas on the outskirts as part of a park-and-ride scheme.

He added that city authorities were planning an overhaul of the transport network for 2000, with a fleet of electric buses in the centre and a new tramline linking the outskirts to the railway station.

Authorities in Venice said yesterday that they were also being overwhelmed by tourists, with a million and a half visitors recorded last year to the Doge's Palace and St Mark's Square. That makes the centre the second-most-visited tourist site in Italy, Pompeii being the top attraction.

Handwritten note: 2000/04/06



■ OPERA
David Freeman's powerful vision of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* is revived at the Coliseum



■ BASE NOTES
Sadler's Wells assembles the stars for one last song and dance before the old theatre comes down

THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTES
Next to be given the Hollywood bio-pic treatment is legend of soul, Otis Redding



■ BASE NOTES
Eleanor Bron will star in the British premiere of Terrence McNally's *A Perfect Ganesh*

New life in Baroque of ages

OPERA

Orfeo Coliseum

It is right and proper for an opera company to keep just about the oldest surviving example of the genre in its repertoire, and David Freeman's production of the Monteverdi *Orfeo* (1607) has been doing sterling service at ENO for 15 years. It does not look like it. In Hayden Griffin's non-specific Levantine setting, it is both of its time — 1981, high noon of Freeman's Opera Factory challenge to the norms of staging — and curiously timeless, and Freeman is always on hand to tidy and tighten the focus.

Anyway, the proof is in the eating: Saturday's audience at the Coliseum was gripped by the steady unfolding of the drama, growing restless only at the long, long mime sequence for Charon at the opening of the Styx scene, and the slow, slow scene change needed to cover the company changing their frocks for the last act. There is, I think, a new *aperçu* in some byplay with a "false" Euridice (a chap, as it happens), and I am still puzzled by Freeman seeing Hades only as a setting for much heavy petting. But the sheer discipline of the production and the 20-strong ensemble's execution of it are beyond dispute.

Musically this is one of the strongest showings the ENO *Orfeo* has enjoyed. Not only does Nicholas Kok draw gorgeous sounds from his Baroque orchestra, but he achieves an ideally fluid, natural musical and dramatic pace. He appears not to hurry, but still manages to knock nearly 20 minutes off the advertised running time. You



Guy de Mey (Orfeo) and Yvonne Barclay as Euridice in English National Opera's evergreen old-stager *Orfeo*

are left wanting more, which is not inevitably the case with Monteverdi. The Belgian tenor Guy de Mey, something of a Baroque specialist, was making his house debut in the title role. He has a big, warm voice, projects easily even when singing on a thread of sound, and his English is clear and instantly communicative — indeed, the way he coloured the words of Anne Ridler's excellent translation showed

up one or two of his English-speaking colleagues, some of whose delivery was a touch mechanical. Not Yvonne Barclay's crystalline Euridice, however, nor Nerys Jones's perky Proserpina, nor Harry Nicoll's urgent Second Shepherd. And Sarah Connolly whistled into the Messenger's narrative with a passion to match the first great dramatic paragraph in operatic history.

The American bass Brian Matthews was an ink-toned Charon, and the young company tenor Mark Le Brocq (Spirit and Echo) is coming on by leaps and bounds, with gleaming, rock-solid tone in his brief utterances. So, *Orfeo* as living drama, not an exercise in historical piety: the near-400 years are bridged effortlessly.

RODNEY MILNES

A FAMOUS London theatrical landmark is celebrating the end of an era in June. The 65-year-old Sadler's Wells Theatre launched the careers of some of the most illustrious performers in Britain — John Gielgud, Laurence Olivier, Margot Fonteyn — but later this year it is being torn down to make way for a new purpose-built dance house. The historic farewell will be marked on June 23 with a gala. Opera and ballet stars are promised, although the line-up has not yet been announced. Following the performance is a gala dinner; there will also be a sale of opera and dance memorabilia. Tickets range from £10-£30.

SOUL legend Otis Redding is to be the subject of a bio-pic, *Blaze of Glory*, written by Joe Eszterhas of *Batman* fame. Eszterhas may not seem the ideal person to deliver a knowledgeable screenplay on the late singer, but he can claim to have been a *Rolling Stone* writer in the American magazine's earliest days, and was the last person to interview Redding before his death in an air crash in December 1967. Work on the film begins this summer, though the title role is still to be cast.

THE British actress Eleanor Bron seems to be enjoying something of an American season. She will follow up her current assignment in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* at the Nottingham Playhouse with the British premiere of American writer Terrence McNally's *A Perfect Ganesh* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds. Bron will

BASE NOTES

Curtain at the Wells

play the role originated off-Broadway by Zoe Caldwell.

THE conductor Libor Pesek, who already considers himself something of an "honorary Liverpoolian", is now an honorary knight. The music director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra was granted an honorary knighthood by the Queen during her recent visit to Prague. Pesek was rewarded "in recognition for services to British interests". The 62-year-old Czech conductor has been with the RLPO since 1987.

NEXT month sees the directorial debut of Peter Brook's daughter, Irena Brook, who is directing *Beast on the Moon* at the BAC in London, which opens on May 14. Richard Kalinoski's play tells of two Armenian immigrants in 1920 Milwaukee.

NEVER one to shy away from controversy, the British actor Nicol Williamson is returning to Broadway. The last time he was there he played to newsworthy effect in *Hate Hamlet*, where he routinely ad libbed, delivered impromptu curtain speeches and, at one performance, nicked co-star Evan Handler

with a sword. His vehicle this time around is his solo show *Jack — A Night on the Town* with John Barrymore, which he played in the West End two summers ago, amid equally contentious circumstances. That was the play where he walked off stage just minutes into the second performance, leaving his audience to wander off home. Broadway, one hopes, will go more smoothly. Opening night is April 17.

IN A bid to promote the art of song, Wigmore Hall is to play host to the first International Song Competition in September 1997. With song often overshadowed by its big sister opera, the art form can seem something of a Cinderella, say the organisers, and they are hoping to help to put that right with this new competition. Sponsored by the Kohn Foundation, it will take place every two years, and is open to singers and accompanists of all nationalities, with an age limit of 32. The first prize is £12,000 and a recital date at the Wigmore Hall. Judges include the sopranos Dame Margaret Price and Elisabeth Söderström, along with the renowned German tenor Peter Schreier.

OASIS songwriter Noel Gallagher is to meet the King of Smooth, Burt Bacharach, after the band's forthcoming appearance in Santa Monica on April 14 — with a view to writing a song together. The Britpop star is an enthusiastic fan of the veteran composer. Elvis Costello has beaten Gallagher to the punch however, having already written and recorded a song with Bacharach.

Plain Speaking Home Insurance

Want home insurance without being robbed?

UP TO
£25 OFF
1st year's
Buildings premiums

+

UP TO
35% OFF
Home contents
premiums

Switch your buildings insurance from your mortgage lender and we'll knock £25 off your 1st year's premium. What's more, if you take out contents insurance with Prudential at the same time, you will receive a 15% discount, plus a further 20% off if you're aged 50 or over. With savings like these, it's no wonder over 90% of our customers renewed their policies last year.

Find out how much you could save. Call now for a free quote. PLUS a FREE home security video.



YOURS FREE

Talk to Prudence.



Freephone 0800 000 000.

Lines are open 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday and from 10am to 2pm weekends. For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded. Please note, in some cases we may not be able to provide a quote. Please quote reference GAC 255.

PRUDENTIAL

Until 20 April

Lady into Fox

an intimate musical
by NEIL BARTLETT
& NICOLAS BLOOMFIELD
based on the novel by DAVID GARNETT

"Peculiar, fantastic, erotic"
FINANCIAL TIMES
"In every aspect the production works splendidly"
THE INDEPENDENT
"Marvelously odd and refreshingly original"
THE TIMES
"Mesmerising"
"Gloriously unpredictable... erotic electricity"
THE GUARDIAN

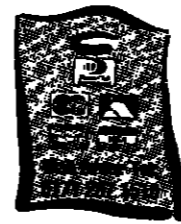
Lyric Theatre Hammersmith STUDIO
BOX OFFICE 0181 741 2311

UNTIL 27 APRIL

EAMON MORRISSEY in BYRNE & THE BROTHER

"WITTY BUT MOVING"
"QUIET BEAUTY AND SNEAKY WIT... AN ENJOYABLE EVENING"

BOX OFFICE 011 328 1000



TOWER
RECORDS-VIDEO-BOOKS



ADAGIO 2

AS SEEN ON TV

ADAGIO Karafan 2

Classical music has never sounded more beautiful
CDs £11.99 each MCs £7.99 each

THE TOWER DIFFERENCE IS SELECTION

PICCADILLY 0171 439 2500 KINGS CROSS 0181 546 2500 KENSINGTON 0171 938 3511 BAYSWATER 0171 229 4550 GLASGOW 0141 204 2500 DUBLIN 01 671 3250

TORONTO
£339

LONDON-TORONTO AND BACK FOR UNDER 5 PENCE

(PER MILE THAT IS)

AIR CANADA
A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Book your flight now. We'll take you to the heart of Canada, visit some of our best day and time from Air Canada's top-selling, only scheduled flights. Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Winnipeg, St. John's, Halifax, and more. To Vancouver, Ottawa is only £400 (weekdays), £485 (weekends). Air Canada's only direct flight to Toronto from London is only £339 (weekdays). Book by May 31. Seats are limited. Book now. Ring 0900 040000 for details.

Managing modern marriages

The State should not subsidise divorce, says Sheila Lawlor

The legislation that most unsettled the Tory backbenchers in the parliamentary term just ended has been divorce law reform. It provoked a spate of moralising, some of it from the most unlikely sources. But modern marriage is a more complicated matter than their moral certainties allow. For better or worse, in our generation traditional marriage has been transformed by social and economic change. This weekend, as the Government institutes reforms to the taxation system to foster self-reliance, some thought might now be given to other financial reforms which could genuinely stabilise relationships.

In the past, we are told, marriage was for life. But then, life itself was shorter. Indeed, the chances of premature death removing one spouse meant that the Grim Reaper, rather than choice, often brought change. Moreover, marriage was less intense. Men and women could lead quite separate lives: the expectation was of worlds conjoined but distinct. Friends and the wider family tended to have a more prominent part in a couple's life than now. Nor had the Puritan streak run to its novel twist that unfulfilled expectation or infidelity must lead inevitably to severance.

Rapid social changes, many dating back only to the 1960s, have changed this picture, sometimes victimising those whom they aimed to liberate. Education, especially of women, has altered the framework of marriage. Whether women are themselves employed, with a measure of independence, or whether they stay with their babies, is often determined by finance. Our high-tax society means that without a rich husband (or wife), two incomes are needed to keep the roof over the family's head or, at least, to escape the desolate subsistence which is all one income would allow. And though full-time careers need rests, full-time mothers cannot have rests unless they can afford to pay for help, and certainly have no chance to develop other interests, in the way that many educated women in the past would have done.

Moreover, ladies with high expectations of life and love tend to be less tolerant of the human nature of their husbands: imperfect beings, the subjects of fatigue, moods and monosyllables. Wives and husbands expect to be not mates but soul-mates: talk and companionship beyond the marriage may often provoke resentment or suspicion.

Those changes in marriage today show that the relations between the incidence of divorce and the legal arrangements for it are complicated and ill-served by simple, moralising debate. There is, however, one important certainty which almost every party to the discussion will acknowledge: divorce on its present scale has a bad effect on those involved and deleterious long-term effects on the children. Must we simply accept these socially damaging consequences of a high

divorce rate as the unfortunate result of modern ways of life?

A little reflection on the role of government in divorce, not as legislator but as financial provider and policymaker, suggests one course of useful action.

Government has not deliberately encouraged divorce, but one of the unintended effects of legislation has been to remove many of the financial constraints which would otherwise make divorce unattractive. The public coffers have facilitated divorce, both through free legal aid and through benefit payments. Or, where the divorcing couple are better off, the State uses its authority to ensure that dependent spouses continue to be supported, even if it is they who, as a result of changed feelings or aspirations, have insisted on divorce.

So a wife, tired of a husband who, whatever his faults is neither cruel nor persistently unfaithful, can initiate proceedings, at public expense, in the knowledge that she will keep her children, her house and an income, courtesy of the taxpayer or her abandoned husband.

The State has, in effect, removed the balance of deterrents within marriage: interest and sentiment no longer hold each other in check.

How can the State develop a policy which, while providing for those in need, does not encourage decisions which lead to dependency? A first step would be to ensure that the State no longer stacks the public purse, or policy, behind the alternative arrangements which fashion made its own in the last three decades. Even if divorce is now to be granted without blame, this should not mean that questions of responsibility do not count in reaching a financial settlement.

Financial subsidy must become the last resort, not the first. Man and wife must, as in the past, take full account of the financial cost of separation and the State must not weight its powers in favour of those who wish, without the very strongest reasons, to make choices they cannot afford.

There will always be the hard cases where separation follows abandonment or brutality. But hard cases are a fraction of our divorce statistics. A policy of responsible neutrality would demand that those determined to divorce would have to pay for it themselves, from the cost of proceedings to that of maintenance. Men and women would be seen to be married to each other, not to the State.

Whether divorce law makes or breaks marriage will remain a question debated between those who believe the law reflects change and those who say it shapes change. By tackling divorce through the power of the purse, we would be on surer ground, and the problem would become the difficult but tractable one of achieving a proper balance between encouraging responsibility on the one hand, and on the other tailoring benefits to those who, despite their own best efforts, need our help.

Sheila Lawlor is director of the think-tank *Politica*.

Paul Barker on the relevance of *Gulliver's Travels* — Channel 4's Easter television highlight

Swift's satire still wounds today

The corrosive pungency of *Gulliver's Travels* stands alone in English literature. Jonathan Swift's satirical onslaughts are as vivid as the day they were written. 250 years ago, the murderous border quarrels of the Lilliputians; the scientific and medical panics that terrify the gullible inhabitants of the floating island of Laputa; the Struldbruggs who live longer and longer, without any of the benefits of eternal youth; all come ferociously close to the contemporary scene.

Swift had the undoubted eye of an outsider. Like Gulliver, he was, in a sense, marooned for much of his life. Dividing his time between Ireland and England, he belonged to neither. Anglican families like his were top dogs in Ireland, but back in England, they were only colonialists. Swift spent most of his unhappy public career trying to balance these two lives.

His outsiderism is one of the aspects that appeals to us now; this, and his many psychological scars. Both Swift and Gulliver are flawed heroes. As described by Swift, Gulliver's voyages are by no means jolly romps. Gulliver feels real fear and revulsion when confronted by the bizarre societies of midgies, giants or hyper-intelligent horses, which parody the England he left behind. You wonder what deep terrors the story hides, that give it its strange force. Swift was born after his father's death. In his infancy he saw little of his mother. At the age of one he was

kidnapped by his nurse and taken to the Cumbrian coast, where he stayed for three years.

Swift's relationships with women can only be called perverse. To attack the King and his ministers was, in Swift's day, dangerous and sometimes fatal. Now it is the small change of television comedy. But it is his misogyny that brings readers up short. He was obsessed by the contrast between bodily beauty and other bodily functions. In Swift's most notorious poem, parodying the laudatory eulogies of the day, a lover explains why he has decided to abandon his mistress:

Nor wonder how I lost my Wits:
Oft Celia, Celia, Celia shuns

He uses obscenity to wing his satire home. Gulliver saves the land peopled by rational horses, the Houyhnhnms. He praises their perfectly organised, dispute-free society. But how are we meant to take this? These fabulous horses offer an impossible ideal. The dream of a society without conflict is a recipe for tyranny, as the French and Russian

Revolutions were to show. Was Swift putting a layer of irony even over his closing recommendation?

Given the tenor of his other writings, he almost certainly was. The Irish dimension can never be forgotten in Swift. The warring islands of Lilliput and Blefuscu, divided by their ludicrous quasi-religious quarrel about which end to open boiled eggs, recalls England's angry involvement with Roman Catholic Ireland. When the floating island of Laputa clouds the sky over its exploited colony of Balnibarbi, Swift recalls England's oppressive rule. And when the Houyhnhnms claim that life would be fine if the loathsome Yahoos would only be as civilised as they are, they epitomise the attitudes of colonial rulers down the centuries: in particular, the English Protestant rulers of the native Irish.

Swift's most celebrated prose satire, apart from *Gulliver's Travels*, is his pamphlet *A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Ireland*

from being a Burden to their Parents or Country. It is the most ferocious dozen pages ever written in English. He suggests that instead of neglecting and exploiting their tenant landlords should treat them tenderly as cattle. The children should be fattened up and sold for food. This would cut down numbers of Catholics, reduce overcrowding and give Ireland a new profitable trade.

He works out his proposal with the mad logic of Hitler deciding on final solution to the Jewish question. But for the taboo against cannibalism, Swift's proposal made a lunatic sort of sense. The landlords in English Parliament were shown the brutal implications of their policy towards Ireland, the reverberation of which have not yet died away. Gulliver tells the King of Brodingnag about the patriotic glories of English history. The only people who are ever right are the English. The King is repelled. He says: "cannot but conclude the bulk of your natives to be the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth." Like going out in the driving rain, there is a kind of exhilaration in being exposed to such unremitting scorn.

Paul Barker's book on the contemporary relevance of *Gulliver's Travels* (Channel Television, £4.95) accompanies the film version, on Channel 4 tomorrow on Monday at 6pm.

The cleansing of Vermeer

The Dutch painter's exhibition enhances the reputation of an accessible genius inspired by love

Per ardua ad Vermeer. I have seen the show. This month the highways to The Hague must rank with the ancient roads to Vézelay and Compostela. Pilgrims through the tented camp outside the Mauritshuis, Trinker-sellers and ticket touts jam the streets of the Dutch capital. This is no giant blockbuster, more a viewing of sacred relics. Just four rooms form a shrine for 23 of the 36 surviving Vermeers. They are packed.

To some, the crush has stripped the paintings of their tranquillity. The critics have declared that Vermeer is a painter of silence who should be worshipped calmly, preferably in solitude. At The Hague, for every inch of Vermeer there is a yard of humanity. Unless you are a giant, each picture can only be seen cropped and framed by heads and shoulders. The exhibition is part Vermeer, part jostling, pushing, restless crowd.

Yet I found the pictures radiated serenity through the hubbub. The homage paid in these modest drawing rooms should exhilarate Vermeer's admirers. The popularity of the show (which ends on June 2) is unmatched in its intensity. No other artist has contrived, in a few intimate pictures, to touch the nerve of an age as Vermeer has ours. Art has become the religion of a secular society and these are among its most precious icons. The *Girl with a Pearl Earring* is truly the modern Mona Lisa.

The Hague has also been a field day for Vermeer conjecturalists. There are barely 40 known facts about Vermeer and less than a dozen contemporary "sightings". In this kingdom of the blind, guessing is a game that all can play. Not only have three of the masterpieces been specially cleaned — most gloriously *The View of Delft* — but so has Vermeer's image. The array of accompanying literature lays to rest the "Old" Vermeer, the brooding, solitary genius of Delft, poor, unrecognized and unpatronised. Gone is Vermeer as stylistic loner and private experimentalist. No, he did not paint through a camera obscura. No, he was not first discovered by a French critic in the 19th century.

The New Vermeer was a distin-

guished burgher of Delft. His paintings were expensive, his reputation assured and his legacy respected. Only a recession brought about his final bankruptcy. The breathless Mauritshuis press release lists eight "new facts" revealed by the show (a claim hardly borne out by the catalogue). But there is no politics like art history politics. One man's wild conjecture is another's certainty. The dozen of Vermeer conjectures, Arthur Wheelock, has become almost a medium for conveying the "message" to the modern world.

So I, too, arrived at The Hague with conjectures under my arm, ready for testing. Who are these ethereal Vermeer women to whom the experts constantly refer in the plural? Every critic denies they are portraits, but sees them as distant, idealised females, transcending time and place. Having decided that Vermeer's message is thus depersonalised, critics must assume his women are mere receptacles of light and colour, like the pearls in the

Woman Holding a Balance. Some assert that the six apparently pregnant models are not pregnant but wearing farthingales. Others assure us that the girl studies, or trones, cannot be portraits. By such conjectures, Vermeer is distanced from the public. Interpretation is kept the property of a critical priesthood, as if art appreciation requires biblical exegesis.

The only discussion of Vermeer's models that I have found is in a 1950 essay by the Dutch critic, Swillens, and another by André Malraux. Coupled with what we know of Vermeer's domestic life from the American scholar, John Montias, I have little doubt that the model for all Vermeer's mature female studies was his wife Catharina, and for the girls, his two eldest daughters, Maria and Elizabeth. The maid throughout was the family's faithful Tanneke Everpoel. I find this suggestion robust and incorrigibly interesting. Yet it is not mentioned in any of the catalogue material, despite a mountain of conjecture on everything from the moral significance of Vermeer's portrayal of drink.

We know more or less for sure that Vermeer had no studio or pupils, left no drawings or notebooks and signed only a handful of his works. There is little evidence of a market for his pictures during his life. All this is consistent with an artist who painted mostly for his own interest and pleasure. An expert in Italian Old Masters, he was intrigued by the new science of optics. Two pictures he did sign, *The Geographer* and *The Astronomer*, appear to be portraits of his friend, the scientist Van Leeuwenhoek, an identification corroborated by a known portrait of the man. Vermeer, in other words, did portrait studies.

We also know that Vermeer married for love, against the wishes of both his own and his wife's families. He even converted to Catholicism to do so. After seven years he and Catharina went to live in Delft's



From Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*: a modern Mona Lisa

Catholic ghetto with his mother-in-law, Maria Thins, in what must have been a desperately crowded house. The couple had 11 children. This was extremely rare in 17th-century Holland where, as Simon Schama has shown, small families were the rule even among Catholics. We can deduce that this was an unusually close family. Catharina was pregnant throughout their married life (Vermeer died at 43) and it mystifies me why critics are so keen to debunk the pregnancy shown in at least six Vermeer paintings (but not in pictures by his contemporaries).

More to the point, as we can see so vividly in *The Hague*, the faces of the mature women are virtually identical, with strong chin, widely-spaced dark eyes and swept-back hair. His younger models — including the girl with an earring — bear so strong a family resemblance that it seems

perverse to exclude the probability that they are Vermeer's daughters. The two eldest were teenagers by the time of his death in 1675 and Maria was already married. She would have kept the blue dress that she (in my view) wears in three of *The Hague* pictures: it is the one garment in these pictures not listed in his posthumous inventory.

Each of these girls has the same direct stare at the viewer, the open faintly Oriental visage. Tanneke, the maid, is quite distinct, a strong heavy-featured character in each of her portrayals. If Van Leeuwenhoek and Tanneke are portraits, why not the pictures of Catharina and the girls? These pictures are surely intimate portrayals of familiar faces as a father might do of his family, not for sale but as keepsakes. We know that Catharina was especially attached to both *The Geographer* (a Kenwood) and the *Art of Painting* (Vienna), which she desperately tried to rescue from a bankruptcy auction. One reason might surely be that the latter showed Vermeer himself in the act of painting one of the daughters.

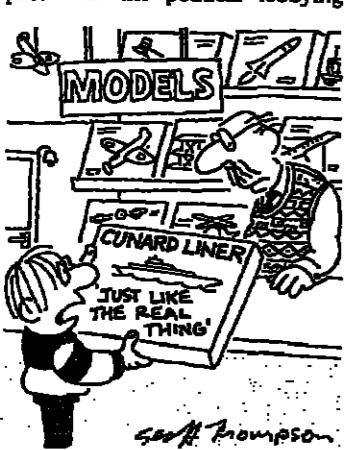
Of all the impressions that I brought away from The Hague exhibition this was the most powerful of a family resemblance more vivid than I had seen in any reproductions. Of course this is conjecture, but of the mass of conjecture that surrounds Vermeer, this seems both reasonable and an aid to the enjoyment of his work. I see him not as a man locked in a room, apart from time and place, beckoning silently down the centuries. I cannot recognise Lawrence Gowing's man "drawn away from his time to express the least expressible meanings of humanity", a clinical observer who neither laughs nor cries but only sees.

My Vermeer is a brilliant part-time artist, intrigued by the science of painting, but inspired to paint by familial love. Just as the pregnancy pictures are Vermeer's homage to Catharina, so the portraits of the girls are surely his homage to family life. His daughters play music, gazing at their father with a directness rare in Dutch art. He plays his own sort of accompaniment, a sonata of light and colour. These are pictures suffused with marital passion and paternal affection. *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*, her mouth open as if about to speak, her eyes full of innocent expectancy, is an image wholly of today. Its appeal rests in its power to communicate the love of a father for a daughter, the most timeless yet vulnerable love of all.

That is what I see. But the joy of Vermeer is that you may see something quite different — and say to hell with the critics.

Joy all round

LABOUR's former director of communications, the terrifying Joy Johnson, is making a surprising return to politics. Bloodied and ousted from the Labour machine after some backstage tussles with Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool, Miss Johnson has taken up a post with the political lobbying



"Haven't you got one that floats?"

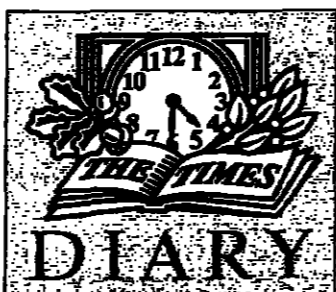
firm APCO UK, a company stacked with Tories.

Luckily, she has had a clause written into her contract that specifies she will not have to work with clients who might bring her into conflict with her dearly held left-wing principles.

One of life's door-slammers, Miss Johnson earned her fearsome reputation as the political news editor of the BBC, having been the first woman shop steward in the whole ITV network. John Major used to complain that she made him feel like a criminal when she used to doorstep him in Downing Street.

A close friend of Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, APCO has taken her on to advise on media and communications strategy, something she did with mixed results for Tony Blair.

When she utters her pencils, she will find herself working as a consultant alongside Martin Savier, a former member of Margaret Thatcher's policy unit, Angie Bray, former press secretary to Chris Patten, and Simon Milton, one-



time deputy leader of Westminster City Council.

Sadly, despite the career move, the really juicy stuff will have to wait. Miss Johnson was sworn to silence on the story behind her acrimonious departure from Walworth Road, as part of her severance package.

● *TODAY'S Boat Race* presents its organiser, Duncan Clegg, with an intriguing conflict of loyalties. His son, Rob, is president of the Oxford boat. "It's the first time such a situation has arisen," says Duncan, who was himself an Oxford president 30 years ago. "I'll give him a pat on the back before he gets to the boat but I shall try to remain absolutely impartial until the flag comes down. Then, of

course, I shall revert to the usual tribal loyalty."

Sounded out

BAD luck continues to dog the orchestra of La Fenice, Venice's opera house. First the opera house burnt down just days before it was due to reopen after refurbishments. Now the orchestra faces eviction from its temporary home, St Mark's Basilica, after complaints that its playing is too loud.

One of the city's chief curators recently called off a concert, having decided that the fortissimo wind passages in Mahler's Second Symphony might rattle the Basilica's mosaics. He went on to explain that music itself was not the problem, only works of such "intensity".

Sliding scale

BBC news bulletins have become a must for a certain type of middle-aged woman. The attraction? Edward Stourton, the newscaster. In recent months, there has been a noticeable thinning around the Stourton jewels and belly. Svelte is not quite the word, but he definitely has less of the all-in wrestler about



Ang Lee: doughnut crazy

him these days. Trips to the gourmand's desert of Eastern Europe for BBC2's *Correspondent* may have something to do with it. Admiring colleagues in the news room, however, tell me that having decided to lose weight, Stourton has shown a steely determination to shed the pounds gradually. Stourton's postbag has swelled as his girth has diminished and

viewers, especially female ones, are showing their appreciation of the new streamlined image.

The metamorphosis has even attracted the attention of the Prime Minister. At a recent party, John Major remarked on Stourton's weight loss, adding "and about time too".

● *TAIWAN'S* greatest living film director has become addicted to Devon-made doughnuts. While directing *Sense and Sensibility* in Devon last year, Ang Lee discovered the pleasures of the Swiss iced doughnut at a small bakery in Plymouth. Now working in New York, Lee has just placed an order with the bakery for 150 of the cakes to be dispatched at speed across the Atlantic to the set of his latest movie.

Stitched up

FASHION NEWS: Norma Major's favourite dress designer is to marry. Louise Tyler, 30, who also makes frocks for the busier members of the racing crowd, learnt her darn from her *denier* cri in Sister Isabel's needlework classes at St Mary's Convent, Ascot.

Her future husband is Mark



Sewn up: Louise Tyler

Platt, a corporate giftlet salesman. Miss Tyler, daughter of a former Governor of the Tower of London, met Platt when they were working together at Tiffany's, the jewellers.

Miss Tyler refuses to say whether her most famous client will be coming to the wedding. "I'm leaving all that to my mother," she says. She will, however, be making her own wedding dress.

P.H.S



OUT OF THE RUBBLE

Britain's neglected art should bring new confidence

From the trauma of the Reformation a Britain was born which vaulted the individual conscience, mistrusted arbitrary authority and was destined to dominate the world. But Protestantism's triumph was bought at a heavy price. As we report in our Magazine today and as BBC2 viewers will see later this month, the zeal of the reformers was responsible for the destruction not just of thousands of allegedly idolatrous works of art but a self-confident tradition of excellence in sculpture and painting in these islands.

To look again this Easter at the art of this country's old Roman Catholic tradition can reach something about how beauty and faith can survive difficult times if safeguarded by a few. To study this neglected art prompts a proper humility at the thought of what may be lost when a nation is in the grip of ideology and gently points towards a proper pride in Britain's buried past.

Some of the surviving great works of medieval devotion, art such as the powerfully affecting stone sculpture of Christ displayed in London's Mercers' Hall, have been unearthed after centuries buried. Others, like the wooden image of the prophet Jesse preserved in the Priory Church of St Mary at Abergavenny, stand neglected, apparently stylistic exceptions, for want of surviving contemporaries to lend them context and emphasise significance.

That both survive is symbolic of the past popularity and resilience of the Catholic faith in a Britain convulsed for almost a whole century by Protestant iconoclasm. When Thomas Cromwell attempted to replace loyalty to Rome with fealty to King Henry VIII he had to deal with a populace whose devotion to Catholicism had been kindled by learning the fundamentals of their faith from church furniture. Theology and doctrine were made real to the ploughman in the pew by the graphic representations — from fonts to windows, reliquaries and statuary — all around him.

Early attempts to root out graven images were delayed by traditionalists. Although

Problems of army morale in Cyprus

From Major-General P. M. Davies

Sir, I have served in Cyprus three times, latterly as Commanding Officer of my battalion (1974-75) and as Commander Land Forces (1981-83).

The current disciplinary problems amongst off-duty soldiers are almost certainly, in my view, restricted to the units serving in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA) near Larnaca. The reason for this is that there is not enough to keep an additional battalion militarily occupied in the ESBA now that it no longer has a UN role. To place tourist areas out of bounds and impose curfews on our soldiers as instigated by General Sir Michael Rose (letter, April 3) is unlikely to be a panacea for disciplinary ills.

I hope that two measures at least are under review by the Ministry of Defence: first the justification for stationing a second major unit in Cyprus, the grounds for which have never amounted to more than providing a sunshine posting; secondly, and more immediately perhaps, that the army authorities should look into the leadership being given by officers to the needs of soldiers under their command. The opportunities for constructive fun and for sporting activities in the island of Cyprus are legion.

Yours faithfully,
P. M. DAVIES,
Vine Cottage,
Fonthill Gifford, Tisbury, Wiltshire.
April 3.

From Mr Kalvin Haley

Sir, As General Sir Michael Rose knows, soldiers' behaviour is linked to their morale, which itself is linked to effective leadership, good management and the conduct of challenging training in peacetime, all of which can be exercised in abundance in Cyprus.

When soldiers behave as horrifically as the "Cyprus three" have done, the "failure" cannot just be theirs. What efforts did Brigadier Denaro and his subordinate commanders make to ensure that any soldiers under their command remained well motivated, proud of their profession and keen to uphold the British Army's universal good name?

When I commanded an infantry company on the same island in 1981-82 (having been an infantryman myself for nine years before commissioning in 1975), I made a point of ensuring that my soldiers' morale and welfare were reviewed as often as possible.

I had been taught to see any failures by my soldiers as failures of my own.

Yours faithfully,
KALVIN HALEY,
2 Chalk Row Cottages,
Maypole Road,
Cheshford Village, Kent.
April 3.

From Mr T. Thomson

Sir, My youngest son is an army officer serving in Bosnia. He has ancestors and living relatives who have also served in the Armed Forces during peace and war, including a great uncle who was awarded one of the first VC's of the First World War.

A few years ago when he was at Sandhurst 1, in company with a number of other fathers, was invited to a fathers' night at the Royal Military Academy, which included an insight into the intensive, strenuous and thorough officer-cadet course that our sons and daughters were undertaking. I was more than once told by instructors that there were no bad soldiers, only bad officers, something I had heard several times in the past from relatives and military friends.

For many years now, there has been an emphasis on the responsibility of all army officers to deal thoroughly with the welfare of those under their command and responsibility, particularly the young and single soldiers. Whether he is on operations, exercise or in barracks, I know that my son spends some 75 per cent of his spare time dealing with his soldiers' welfare.

However, the recent disgraceful Cyprus case clearly reminds us that, despite the best of any officer's efforts or intentions, the British soldier is only a human being and a product of the society from which he is recruited. Whilst the vast majority of our serving soldiers behave impeccably, there is a growing number of problem soldiers missing drink and drugs.

It is time we realised that such behaviour is merely a reflection of what is wrong with society at large. We should look harder at the causes of dissent and crime generally.

Yours sincerely,
T. THOMSON,
Meadowcroft,
St Tudy, Nr Bodmin, Cornwall.
April 3.

From Mr David Jones

Sir, The day after the arrest of the three soldiers in Cyprus in 1994 an army spokesman said on the *Today* programme that soldiers "work hard, play hard". This ethic has excused riotous behaviour by soldiers for too long, and should be scrapped.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JONES,
Ty Newydd, Gwelfor Avenue,
Hollyhead, Anglesey.
April 1.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0177-782 5046.

Charity proceeds of garden visiting

From Mrs R. Aldred

Sir, Now that the "yellow book" garden visiting season has arrived one can enjoy visiting many private gardens open for charity. However, I find it surprising that the National Gardens Scheme, which administers this charitable fund, still chooses to support the National Trust. Last year it donated £260,000 to the trust's garden fund.

National Trust income in 1994-95 was £142.6 million of which it spent £11.4 million on its gardens. Compare this with the total of £1.3 million raised by the National Gardens Scheme in 1995 to distribute to its various charities. A case of David supporting Goliath (even though, in fairness, the trust does open some of its own gardens periodically as part of the scheme)?

The National Gardens Scheme has supported the trust's garden fund since 1949, despite the phenomenal rise in the trust's income since then. Trust membership fees alone provided £41.8 million in 1994-95.

In recent years the National Gardens Scheme has added the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund to its list of

beneficiaries. This charity, which trains and provides nursing care in the home for cancer patients, deserves all the help it can get.

The National Gardens Scheme could benefit this and other caring charities it supports more if it reduced or scrapped the proportion of its income that it donates to the trust. This donation has been running at about £250,000 for the last three years.

With a doubling of its membership to over two million in the last ten years, and given the ever popular interest in gardens, the trust could surely generate funding for its gardens from within. It also has access to National Heritage lottery money.

Could it be that the scale and ambition of some of the trust's projects are too large or the amount it allocates to its garden fund too small? The necessity of some restorations and projects should be questioned if budgets are tight.

Yours sincerely,
R. ALDRED,
4 Sheardhall Avenue,
Disley,
Stockport, Cheshire.
April 4.

Marriage, mediation and divorce

From the Right Reverend Lord Haddock

Sir, I am surprised that the Director of the Centre for Policy Studies (letter, March 30; see also letters, March 8, 18, 22) should be so ignorant of the nature of family mediation as to refer to "state mediators". The Mediation Services are voluntary organisations which can only work with those who make a free choice to come to them for help. Under the Family Law Bill services which meet appropriate standards will qualify for legal aid.

It is a basic principle of mediation that couples must reach their own decisions, which are then given legal force by being referred to a lawyer. The task of the mediator is to provide a controlled, supportive and yet searching context in which a couple can face the practical implications of divorce together.

Not all couples are suitable for this, especially when there has been violence, and mediators are alert to the dangers of coercion. When the conditions for mediation are inappropriate they advise couples to seek independent legal advice. Alternatively if the couple show signs of changing their minds about divorce they are advised to use the reconciliation services.

The process envisaged in the Bill is already covered by a code of practice which will not be further refined in the light of experience during the two years of pilot studies. It is emphatically not the kind of state-run heavy-handed procedure which Tessa Hewitt's letter seems to imply.

Like many others I wish divorce legislation was unnecessary, but I hope that opponents of the present Bill will not go on repeating unsubstantiated charges that it will "undermine the strength of the marriage contract". By encouraging couples to think again before they plunge into legal confrontation it is far more likely to have the reverse effect.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HADDOCK,
18 The Mount,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
March 30.

From Mr Derek B. Forrest

Sir, The whole debate on divorce reform becomes increasingly irrelevant

Bill of Rights

From the Director of Charter 88

Sir, David Selbourne ("Blairites should be Puritans", March 29) accuses Charter 88 — and others — of peddling "an indiscriminate politics of rights and more rights", a heavy charge indeed.

It is an odd contradiction that the UK is one of the few mature democracies to lack a Bill of Rights, leaving fundamental freedoms vulnerable to the exercise of centralised power, yet many argue that we have too many rights.

It is precisely this absence of constitutionally protected rights and their corresponding responsibilities which contributes to the malaise which preoccupies Mr Selbourne.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PUDDLEPHATT,
Director, Charter 88,
Exmouth House,
3-11 Pine Street, EC1.
April 1.

Spot the trendy

From Mrs Lita Buckley

Sir, I read Joe Joseph's article on "hip" parents (April 1; see also letters, April 4) and felt an immediate outpouring of sympathy — for myself. After qualifying as a teacher in 1963 I moved to the London area but was untouched by the "swinging" Sixties.

I am an only child who went to a single-sex school and obeyed the rules of teachers, parents and conventional society until I was about forty. Then I realised that I was slipping seamlessly into middle age and for the first time I claimed for myself the freedom of expression which our children take for granted and would apparently

as more and more couples cohabit. Imposing a waiting period on divorce simply provides them with yet another reason to do so.

My concern, as a lawyer, is that these couples also opt out of the legal protection set up to protect the interests of parties and children.

We should be using the parliamentary time to extend the reach of the law into cohabitation. Giving more recognition to this relationship might reduce some of its attractions to the irresponsible.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK FORREST,
Solicitor Direct,
Leyland House,
Lancashire Enterprises
Business Park,
Centurion Way, Leyland, Lancashire.
April 2.

From Mr Roger Sims, MP for Chislehurst (Conservative)

Sir, It is claimed that the 12 month cooling-off period pending divorce, which is proposed in the Family Law Bill, devalues the importance of the marriage contract, but surely the damage was done in 1985 when, against my advice, Parliament reduced from three years to one the period which had to elapse after marriage before a divorce petition could be lodged?

It is certainly reasonable that those who have decided to divorce should be required to consider the implications of their decision and how it should be implemented. Is it not more important, though, that couples contemplating marriage should not be able to do so in the knowledge that, should problems arise, they can undo their contract in 12 months' time?

Some of my colleagues want to extend the period between a statement of intention to divorce and its implementation. I suggest that the institution of marriage is more likely to be strengthened by extending the minimum period between making a statement of intention to divorce to two years, and I hope that they will support my amendment to that effect.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SIMS,
House of Commons.
April 2.

Police firearms

From Mr Brian O'Reilly

Sir, I was worried and surprised by the photograph with your front page report on the new emergency laws (April 2), which showed police officers in the City of London stopping a car and speaking to the driver. One of the officers is holding a semi-automatic weapon with his finger resting on the trigger. This practice is, I believe, most dangerous, and entirely wrong.

Anybody who has knowledge of weapons — I have held a firearms certificate in the past — will know that you only have your finger on the trigger when you are about to discharge the weapon.

At all other times, the trigger finger should be in a "straight ahead" position in front of the trigger.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN O'REILLY,
8 Norbury Avenue,
Salford, Greater Manchester.
April 3.

deny me: I had a lot of catching up to do.

Would you please pass this on to my son, 19, who on my return from a successful tap-dance show in our village hall, when I was feeling rather rakish in leotard and tights, greeted me with Edwardian disapproval: "Don't you think you should go up and change into something more suitable?"

For a moment I felt a twinge of the old guilt, then laughed in the teeth of "authority".

Yours etc,
LITA BUCKLEY,
Bramble Cottage,
High Street,
Evercreech, Somerset.
April 4.

All mod cons and trouser presses

From the Acting Chief Executive of the English Tourist Board

Sir, The Consumers' Association is quite wrong to suggest that no bed and breakfast accommodation without such "mod cons" as trouser presses, TV sets and telephones can be granted a tourist board crown rating (report, April 3). The English Tourist Board offers a range of ratings to cover the huge variety of establishments in this country, and it is this flexibility that has led to the crown accommodation scheme being the largest such scheme in Britain.

In fact, less emphasis is being laid on facilities as the tourist boards move towards highlighting the all-important quality of an establishment — ie, level of customer care and hospitality and the standard of decor, furniture and fittings. This measure became a compulsory element of the annual inspections carried out by our staff from this week.

Consumers have emphatically told us they want reassurance on this score, and we are working hard to incorporate the improvements they have suggested. Far from "destroying" the English bed and breakfast, our aim is to strengthen this unique success story for the benefit of customers and the industry.

Yours sincerely,
TIM BARTLETT,
Acting Chief Executive,
English Tourist Board,
Thames Tower, Black's Road, W6.
April 3.

From Mr Philip Ross

Sir, Your article on tourist boards and their criteria comes as a welcome dose of common sense.

We have provided guest house accommodation for 15 years and have yet to meet a "tourist" in the sense that the tourist boards apparently use the term.

We find that guests appreciate a warm and friendly reception rather than quibble about the size of the reception desk. They want a homely atmosphere and are not so much concerned about television sets, telephones and newspapers. They want tender loving care from people who enjoy providing it, not quantities of equipment and wall-to-wall carpet.

We do not envy guests in their search through an ever-increasing number of meaningless categories, ratings and standards which assail them in their search for, simply, "somewhere to stay".

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP ROSS,
Number Twenty Eight,
(AA QQQQ Selected,
ETB 4 Crown Commended,
RAC Highly Acclaimed),
28 Lower Broad Street,
Ludlow, Shropshire.
April 3.

From Mrs Heather Brown

Sir, Thank you for clearing up the mystery of the ubiquitous trouser presses. Having at last decided they cannot all be antiques I now hide them under the bed or in those enormous wardrobes, preferring their space to their presence.

Could the tourist boards be persuaded to replace them with obligatory tables, uncluttered by pamphlets and dried flowers, on which I can put a soft suitcase or haversack? In my book, a useful surface to put things on rates an extra crown; a bedside light you can actually read by rates another.

Yours sincerely,
HEATHER BROWN,
White Cottage, Penton Mewsey,
Andover, Hampshire.
April 3.

Airline 'bumping'

From Mr Iain D. M. Wright

Sir, There is another side to the "bumping" coin (letter, April 4). I was asked recently by Virgin to give up my seat on an overbooked flight from LA in return for a free return ticket to anywhere on their network. Unfortunately my dreams of a freebie to Hong Kong were shattered an hour later, when a number of unthinking passengers didn't turn up, rendering my selfless act of volunteering my seat superfluous.

As a result, I was left disappointed at not being bumped — but perhaps that takes a special sort of marketing genius.

Yours faithfully,
IAIN WRIGHT,
Invercreech, Kings Lane,
Longcot, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.
April 4.

Last words

From the Reverend Michael Lloyd

Sir, It is good to see the spirit of Easter entering into your book reviews. A. S. Byatt ("Passionate tale of the unexpected", April 4) describes Doris Lessing's work as "unlike that of any novelist writing now, except perhaps Saul Bellow, and the late Anthony Burgess". It gives new and heartening meaning to the term "posthumous novel".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LLOYD
(Chaplain),
Fitzwilliam College,
Cambridge.
April 4.

KOREAN PARALLELS

After China, North Korea tries its turn at brinkmanship

With less than a week to go before South Korea's parliamentary elections, North Korea is stirring the pot much as China did before Taiwan went to the polls. There are important differences. Pyongyang's missiles, so far, have been mostly inertial; although its decision to cease observing the rules of the 1953 armistice in the demilitarised zone has possible military implications. North Korea's intransigence is unlikely to increase support for the ruling party, as China's did in Taiwan, because the main election issue for most South Korean voters is not relations with the North, but public disgust over the scandalous financial dealings of their politicians, past and present.

The vital similarity is that these are both Cold War frontiers where brinkmanship could spin out of control. Both Peking and Pyongyang say that they could use force to settle their respective demands for reunification. In both capitals, paranoid nationalism and more aggressive foreign policy are part of the hidden internal battles for the political leadership. Both countries would have a lot to lose from military adventurism; but it would be risky to assume that their secretive élites will act according to rational calculations of national self-interest.

That is even more true of North Korea than of China, because the worst floods this century, aggravated by years of mismanagement, have brought its people to the edge of physical endurance. South Korea's President Kim Young Sam describes it as "a disabled aircraft in mid-air". The North's "dear leader", Kim Jong Il, still not confirmed in his father's positions as President and head of the party, is almost never seen or heard in public. But to judge by a December article purportedly by him, attacking economic reformers and ideological revisionists as "obsolete and reactionary traitors", he has cast his lot with the hardliners.

They argue that just as the US responded to nuclear blackmail with a negotiated com-

promise, North Korea can create enough anxiety about its military intentions to persuade America to replace the armistice with a bilateral peace treaty. This would cut South Korea out of negotiations — giving the North a huge propaganda victory. This strategy is entirely unrealistic, but Pyongyang could be tempted to risk a skirmish, if not a war, in order to put the thesis to the test.

The American military in South Korea, accustomed to being vilified as "US imperialist war maniacs", profess to be "concerned but not alarmed" by North Korea's deliberate destabilisation of the border area. They are more worried by the mayhem that could accompany the country's collapse, which General Gary Luck, the commander of US forces in South Korea, recently told Congress is now a matter of when, not if. The dissolution of countries tends to be a process, not an event — and by most estimates, the process in North Korea is far advanced.

President Clinton visits South Korea and Japan later this month. In Japan, he is due to make a joint declaration reaffirming the importance of the US-Japan security treaty. In the aftermath of the Okinawa rape, this has become a delicate issue in itself; but in addition, America has formally requested Japan to provide logistical support if Japan-based US forces are needed to deal with conflict in Asia. Caught in a fierce internal debate over whether or not to amend its postwar peace constitution, Japan is equivocating. Increased tensions in both the region's hot spots will increase the domestic pressures on Mr Clinton to insist. But too much pressure could fuel Japanese pacifism, and if Japanese demonstrators even whisper "troops out", many US congressmen would be only too happy to oblige. The US-Japan security treaty is Asia's only serious deterrent against military adventurism by either China or North Korea. That matters far more than military burden-sharing. In public at least, Mr Clinton should be patient.

SHELF LIFE

Why browsing is as important as buying

Browsing Man. You can spot him from afar. He darts into a newsagent's shop, makes for the shelf with the magazines, wedges his creased carrier bag between his shoes and reaches urgently for the journal to which he is so faithful. *Stamp Collector's Bulletin*, *Monthly Lepidopterist*, *Pigs and Pigeons* or *Trainspotting Today*: these titles may be imaginary ones, but their names are redolent of the special interests, obsessions and quirks which draw Browsing Man out of his private shell and into the high street shops.

Browsing Man is not an instinctive buyer. He knows what he wants and knows how to get it. Why pay for hay when you can graze for free? Newsagents, of course, are not overly fond of him. He is, however, a generous cut above shoplifters and will, every once in a while, take the plunge and buy his magazine. This decision can be a painful one: but if the classified advertisements for stamps from Vanuatu and the Vatican are too extensive to copy out in full on the back of an envelope, he will shuffle grudgingly to the till and part with a couple of quid.

past. WH Smith, Britain's biggest and best known chain of newsagents, has decided to sweep off its heaving shelves a whole sheaf of Browsers' Favourites.

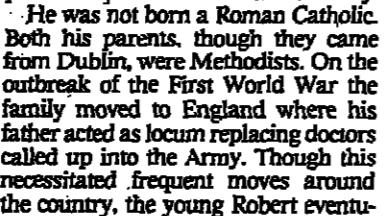
Out, unfeelingly, go *Racing Pigeon*, *Pictorial* and the *Dr Who* Poster Magazine. Out, cruelly, go *Elvis Monthly* and *Epicurean Life*. Out, with all the coldness of a cigar-and-top hat capitalist, goes *Tribune* (a magazine, clearly, for those who love dinosaurs). WH Smith will now stock its shelves with "mass circulation" magazines, in an attempt to make the selling day a more profitable one, as well as to reduce the clutter for more serious buyers.

We regret this move. Not only will this drive the more arcane publications out of the marketplace, it will also endanger Browsing Man's way of life. The Man-in-Smith's-with-the-obscure-mag is as emblematic of Britain as the passengers on the Clapham Omnibus once were. He pursues a passion in an admirable, pennywise way, keeping alive our reputation as a people with cryptic interests. And on his shoulders rests a larger truth: a nation of shopkeepers must also be a nation of browsers.

Yet this largely cost-free life of browsing and retrospection could soon be a thing of the

ROBERT NICHOLL

Rifling through the archives of

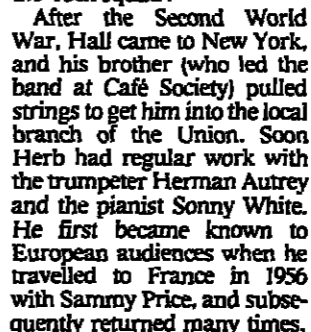


In 1929 he joined the community of Benedictine monks at Buckfast Abbey where he continued to pursue his historical interests. With Father Norris, who was to become a world authority on the subject, he made a survey of the stained glass in continental cathedrals and worked on documents in the abbey library. He was ordained priest in 1935 and was sent to St Benet's Hall, Oxford, to read for a degree in History.

A slight stroke in 1992 necessitated retirement to Steyning with a large library of books. He managed to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1993 and was reinstated as a priest by the Vicar General who thus regularised his clerical status. But any hopes of resuming his priestly duties were now beyond him physically.

Herb Hall's first professional job was with Kid Augustine Victor in Baton Rouge, in whose band he replaced his brother Clarence in 1926. He then went on to join one of New Orleans's most famous orchestras led by the trumpeter Sidney Desvigne, playing aboard Mississippi riverboats such as the *Capitol* and the *Island Queen*. In 1929 he met the charismatic trumpeter Don Albert and agreed to join his territory band initially for a long engagement at the Texas State Fair in Dallas.

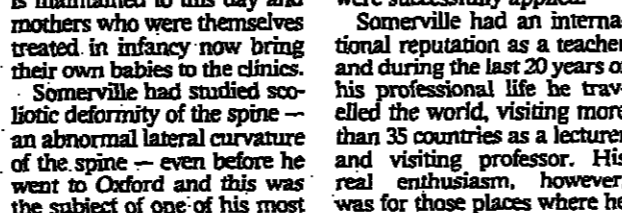
Albert's band became one of the leading jazz orchestras in the South and West, moving from Dallas to San Antonio, which became its base until it



In America, Hall established himself as house clarinetist at Eddie Condon's club in New York, and he also worked with the trumpeter Bobby Hackett and the pianist Don Ewell, with whom he later made a quartet record in New Orleans. Hall made surprisingly few records under his own name (*Old Tyme Modern* made for Biograph in 1969 is a masterpiece). But he appeared on many sessions led by others, including Doc Cheatham and Sammy Price.

In the 1970s he moved back to San Antonio, where he had met and married his wife, Annie in 1931. He travelled to New York, Canada and Europe for solo engagements but gradually retired, preferring to run his large garden – his vegetable garden was his greatest happiness in later years – and practise the yoga and meditation to which he attributed his long and healthy life. A stroke in the early 1980s affected his vision and ended his playing career.

Edgar William Somerville was born the son of a general practitioner. He was educated



Outside his profession, Somerville pursued his leisure recreations with as much energy as he devoted to his work. At university he was awarded Blues for hockey and tennis. He played golf to a handicap of six. In the 1950s he also took up sailing and cruised the coasts from Copenhagen to southern Brittany. In retirement he travelled and played golf and though his joy in sailing receded after the death of his wife Margaret in 1981, even up to a few weeks before his death he could be found applauding from the touchline at his grandsons' sporting efforts.

Edgar Somerville is survived by his daughter.

Rimmer was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal (translated to the George Cross in 1941) for his service with the police in India. The citation, published on June 3, 1931, read: "Sergeant Rimmer was decorated not for one act of gallantry, but because on numerous occasions he showed great courage and coolness. His pluck and presence of mind evoked the highest praise from his superiors and he consistently set a fine example to the constabulary under him."

Rimmer had joined the Indian police in Bombay in 1927, having before that followed an exclusively service career. He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in Wales in 1918 while still only 16. He got round the

Rimmer was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal translated to the George Cross in 1941 for his service with the police in India. The citation, published on June 3, 1931, read: "Sergeant Rimmer has decorated not for one act of gallantry, but because on numerous occasions he showed great courage and boldness. His pluck and presence of mind evoked the highest praise from his superiors and he consistently set a fine example to the constabulary under him."

Rimmer had joined the Indian police in Bombay in 1927, serving before that followed an exclusively service career. He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in Wales in 1918 while still only 16. He got round the

He refused, though, to be deflected and in 1919 re-enlisted, this time in the Cheshire Regiment, serving with them throughout the Black-and-Tan period in Ireland (he was selected for "special detachment duties" and was under canvas in the winter of 1920-21, catching pneumonia as a result).

He was then posted to India where he remained with the Cheshire Regiment until 1927, when he joined the India Police (Bombay) which he left in 1939. At the outbreak of the Second World War he rallied

Regular Army and served in the East Africa Pioneer Corps, being involved both with the campaign against the Mau-Mau in Kenya and in the ill-fated Anglo-French expedition to Egypt in 1956 designed to reassert Western control of the Suez Canal.

He finally retired to Chester in 1958, where he became a court usher until forced to retire again at the age of 65 in 1967. He lent dignity to any court in which he appeared, having preserved an erect military bearing and standing

Reginald Rimmer married Lucy Barley in Chester in 1934 when he was home from India on eight months' leave. He is survived by her and by a daughter.

EX-SERVICES MENTAL
WELFARE SOCIETY

We honour those who gave their lives for our country. But what of those who shared the same horrors and survived... their minds shattered.

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society cares for men and women from the Services with varying degrees of mental illness in our convalescent homes and veterans

COMBAT STRESS
Ex-Servicemen Mental Welfare Society
Bromley House, The Broadway,
Wimbledon, South W. Tel: 081-543 6333

TIMES

DEATH

Death Notices over the phone call during the times.
1.00pm - 12.00pm

fax: 0171 481 9313

**To place your Birth or Death Notices over the
Easter Holiday period please call during the
following times.**

Saturday 6th April 9.00am - 12.00pm
Monday 8th April 9.30am - 2.30pm

Tel: 0171 680 6880. Fax: 0171 481 9313

... When in 1917 the United States went to war, MacArthur became Chief of Staff of the Rainbow Division, in which, according with his own suggestion, every State in the Union was represented. In France his personal courage was outstanding. Returning to the United States in 1919, MacArthur became the youngest man to be appointed commandant at West Point. In 1930, once again the youngest to hold so high a post, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army with the rank of General. His warnings about the need for preparedness were disregarded, and in 1937 he retired from the army. In July 1941 President Roosevelt recalled MacArthur to duty and appointed him commanding general of the Far East command. When in December the Japanese mercilessly bombed Manila ten hours after the attack on Pearl Harbour, all that MacArthur could hope to do was to gain time. Ordered to transfer his headquarters when further resistance became

General MacArthur was a charismatic leader, who, it was said, could reduce strong men to tears by his eloquence. His obituary reflected the whole range of a full career. This extract covers the period for which he is best remembered in this country.

useless, he escaped to Australia in a motor-torpedo boat. As he landed he proclaimed with a characteristic touch of egotism and flair for publicity: "I have come through and I will return." As supreme commander of all allied forces in the south-west Pacific, he became one of the greatest military figures of the war. He was awarded the Congressional Medal and in 1944 was made General of the Army. A year earlier he had been made an honorary GCB. Once the Japanese offensive had been brought to a

halt, his "island-hopping" return to the Philippines began. By October, 1944, MacArthur was able to announce at Leyte: "I have returned", although it took until May 1945 to complete the reconquest of the islands. He was appointed military governor of Japan after the capitulation, and remained there six years, hastening the transformation of a feudal society into a modern democratic state. When South Korea was attacked MacArthur enthusiastically supported President Truman's decision to go to its aid in the name of the United Nations. His letter to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, however, showed that he was out of sympathy with the Administration's policy . . . its refusal to allow him to bomb bases in China became an embittered political controversy. Despite warm invitations from President Truman to return to the United States he refused until he was recalled. He had not seen his country for 14 years; he had become out of touch with American opinion. MacArthur was relieved of all commands in April 1951.

THURSDAY APRIL 6 1996

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Soul searching: Alan Jackson gets to the heart of his life in Hollywood Page 11

WEEKEND

Hollywood or bust: writer's winning script Page 11

10 15

Win your height in the Sun Page 11

VISION

Big boy: Ted Dwyer Page 11

TODAY

ICES DISTANT NEEDN'T BE STANT.

GAMES



Win six £100 prizes on the Jumbo Crossword

Page 6

PLUS: chess, bridge and Punchline, page 23

PROPERTY



Country cottages: bucolic bliss for sale

Page 11

PLUS: Hunt Paddock & Turret, page 11

TRAVEL



Through the markets and mosques of Syria

Page 18

PLUS: testing national tourist offices, page 19

GARDENING



Free guide to the finest gardens in Britain

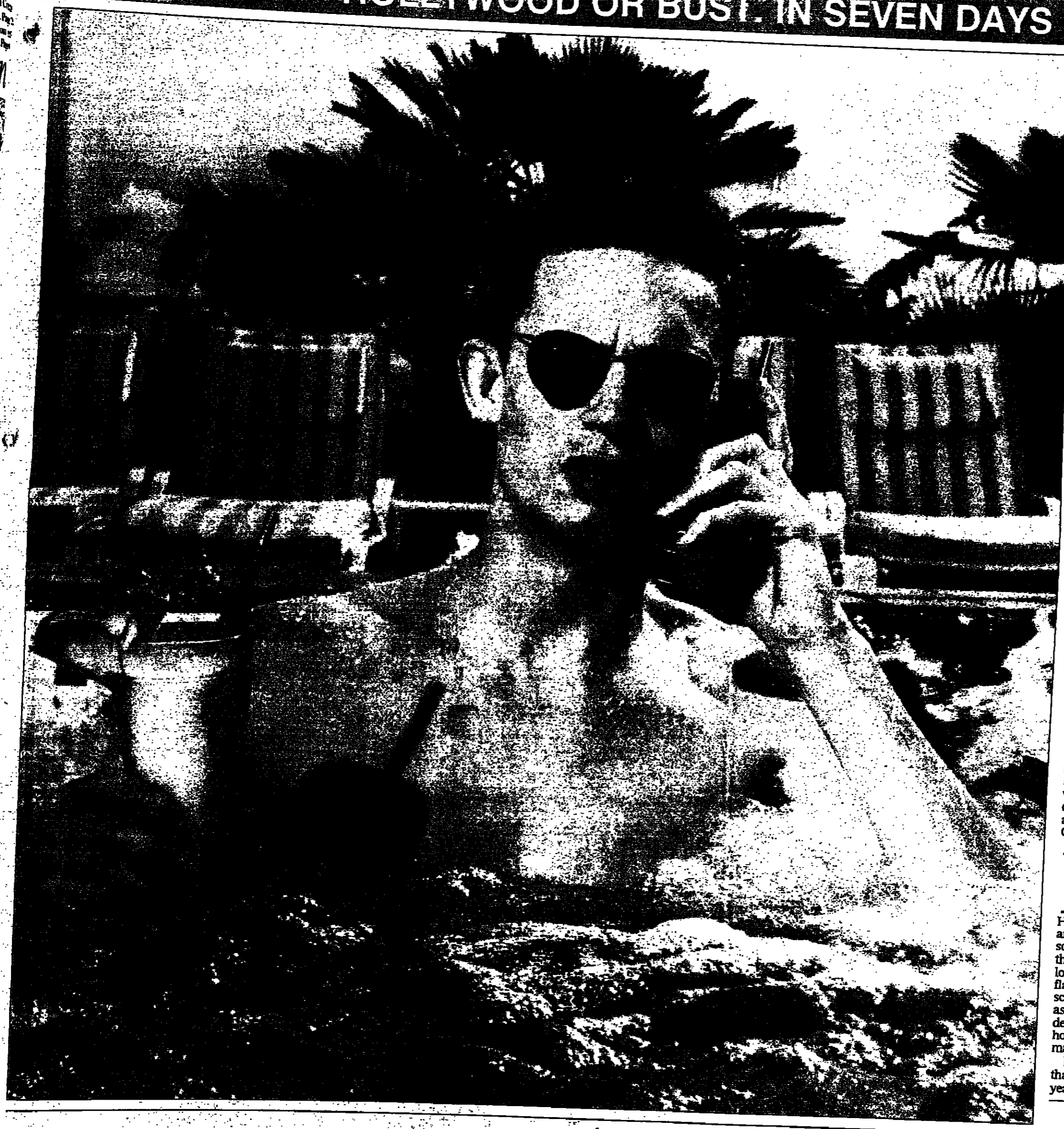
Page 4

PLUS: your questions answered, page 4

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 6 1996

HOLLYWOOD OR BUST. IN SEVEN DAYS



by Giles Whittell

On a recent Thursday afternoon in Beverly Hills, Richard Rees scored a singular triumph. He was sitting among the golfing photos that clutter the corner office of super-agent Guy McElwaine, listening to glowing praise for a film script. His film script.

It was, McElwaine said, an exceptional piece of writing: fresh, ingenious, atmospheric and with the potential to become "a very successful movie". Eventually Rees summoned the nerve to ask whether, if it were all these things, McElwaine would undertake to sell it.

"Categorically," was the reply. A more excitable sort might have peeled his clammy palms from the arms of his seat and punched the air in delight. But Rees, who is 31 and as unflappable as the Sphinx, acknowledged his screenwriting hole-in-one with little more than an inward smile and, later, a dip in the pool at the legendary Four Seasons Hotel (see left).

It is said that at any given moment more than 40,000 unfilmed scripts are circulating in Hollywood's internal mail systems and on the sun-drenched back seats of its sports cars. Of these perhaps 5 per cent are ever picked up by a producer. Of these fewer than one in ten get made into films and of these an even tinier proportion earn back their budgets.

Screenwriting can be a thankless trade and, since the dawn of rolling celluloid, its practitioners have sought ways to beat the odds. Apart from submitting to the inevitable decades of sweat and tears there is only one way of doing this: get yourself a decent agent, preferably the best in town.

By common consent, Guy McElwaine is among the best. It was he who discovered Sharon Stone and turned Joe Eszterhas from a rugged-looking *Rolling Stone* reporter into the only screenwriter in history to command \$1.5 million for a two-page idea for a film about Las Vegas strippers, which became *Showgirls*.

Here, then, is a guide to getting on his client list.

Step one: beat tough competition to win this newspaper's annual script-writing competition which, in its inaugural year last year, attracted more than 2,000 entries, judged by a panel of some of the most distinguished figures in British film. Then arm yourself with cast iron self-belief, the endurance of an ox, a light linen jacket suitable for the alternating sun and squalls of a Southern Californian spring, and head out west.

It seemed to work for Rees, winner of last year's *Times* scriptwriting competition, though none of it was easy. His breakthrough in the offices of International Creative Management, one of Hollywood's top three agencies, came after an exhausting week of baring his creative soul by day and schmoozing with the hipper-than-hip by night. It was a week of little sleep, long drinks and too many cigarettes; of flattery from some power-brokers, condescension from others and genuine enthusiasm from a few. It was an object lesson in the deeply subjective appeal of any script, however good, and in that oldest of showbiz maxims: it's not what you know, but who.

It all began with a gleamingly good idea that dropped into his head one night last year. Richard was at home in Cambridge

Continued on page 3, col 1

The Levington Difference



HERES A LEGACY OF A WARM HUMID AUTUMN

MOSS!



BEST TACKLE IT NOW - OTHERWISE YOU'LL HAVE POOR COLOUR ALL SUMMER

MOSSKIL EXTRA



I USE MOSSKIL® EXTRA BECAUSE IT FEEDS THE GRASS AS IT KILLS THE MOSS.

RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RAKE UNTIL THE MOSS IS BLACK, ABOUT A WEEK LATER.



IT'S EASY WITH A MAXI SPREADER



AND THIS SUMMER MY GRASS WILL BE BEAUTIFULLY GREEN AND MOSS FREE.



Read the label before you buy: use pesticides safely. Mosskil Extra contains ferrous sulphate. LEVINGTON and MOSSKIL are registered Trade Marks of Levington Horticulture Ltd. THE LEVINGTON DIFFERENCE is a Trade Mark of Levington Horticulture Ltd. © Levington Horticulture Ltd. 1996.

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

GUSTAVE CAILLEBOTTE Unlike his ever-popular allies in the Impressionist movement, Caillebotte is an unfamiliar name. He is known, if at all, as a discerning early collector of paintings by Cézanne, Monet, Renoir and his other friends. Dying at the age of 45 in 1894, Caillebotte bequeathed the pictures to the French national museums, thereby laying the foundations of their Impressionist collections. But his exhibition at the Royal Academy proves that he was, above all, a serious and challenging painter in his own right. The best canvases date from the 1870s, when Caillebotte exhibited with the Impressionists and concentrated on urban scenes. Whether producing panoramic views of the Paris boulevards, or interiors looking out onto the streets below, he defined the energy and anonymity of modern metropolitan life.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-439 7439), until June 23. **SYMBOLS FOR SI** When the Festival of Britain came to an end in 1951, Churchill's incoming Conservative government destroyed most of the buildings erected on the South Bank site. But visitors' memories, combined with photographs and models, testify to the excitement generated by that extraordinary event. The austerity of postwar Britain was forgotten for a moment, and the future celebrated with new architecture, sculpture and painting. Now, at the Festival Hall, a special exhibition brings together much of the work that survives. The curator Robert Burrows has uncovered many lesser-known images, and he rightly gives generous space to the Skyline, the structure by Powell and Moya.

FESTIVAL HALL, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-921 0600), until Apr 21.

ROCK

David Sinclair

SOUND CITY 96 This year the spotlight falls on Leeds as its pubs, clubs, concert halls and colleges throw open their doors for the increasingly popular, week-long megafest. There will be a frenzy of activity including seminars, musicians' masterclasses, club nights and outdoor stages, and many of the events will be broadcast live on Radio 1. The big acts in town for the week include:

Town and Country: The Wildhearts (Apr 7); Manic Street Preachers (Apr 8); Sleeper/Sheen/660 Ft Dolls (Apr 9); Blue/tones/Cardigans/Northern Uproar (Apr 10); The Presidents of the United States of America/Ocean Colour Scene (Apr 11); **Metropolitan University Students' Union**: Terrorvision (Apr 8); Garbage (Apr 9); Ash (Apr 10); Dodgy/Dubstar (Apr 11); Orbital/Wedding Present/Bis (Apr 12). **Information** (0113-243 8885) and **Bookings** (0113-280 0100).

TASMIN ARCHER A modest handful of dates mark the low-key return to the spotlight of the *Sleeping Satellite* star, Tasmin Archer. And although her new album, *Bloom*, is unlikely to produce a hit single of similar magnitude, it stands as a carefully considered and impressively cool piece of work. Accompanied by a five-piece band, the singer from Bradford performs in a simple, direct style, but is capable of infusing her songs with deep shades of longing and regret. **Windsor Baths**, Bradford (01274 390405), Apr 11; **Manchester University** (0161-275 2930), Apr 12; **Royal Concert Hall**, Glasgow (0141-332



Collector and painter: the Impressionist Gustave Caillebotte's 1877 canvas *Canotiers (Oarsmen)* is among the artist's works at the Royal Academy (see Galleries)

6633), Apr 13; **Birmingham Town Hall** (0121-605 6666), Apr 15; **Bloomsbury Theatre**, London WC1 (0171-388 8822), Apr 16.

DANCE

John Percival

GRAND FRENCH BALLETS CANADIENS This company from Montreal has changed completely since earlier London seasons: new director, dancers and repertoire. They open at Birmingham Rep with *Quintessence* by Mark Morris, plus Jim Kylián's thrilling *Sinfonietta* and for the only time on this tour Nacho Duato's *Rassemblement*. Blackpool sees *Quintessence* plus *The Moor's Paw* by José Limón. *Black Cake* by Hans van Manen, and *Double Time* by Itzik Galili. Then Sadler's Wells has two programmes by these choreographers plus a new name, Kevin O'Day, and the tour ends in Aberdeen and Glasgow. **Repertoire Theatre**, Birmingham (0121-236 4455), Apr 10, 11, 7.30pm; **Grand Theatre**, Blackpool (01253 28372), Apr 14; **Sadler's Wells Theatre**, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), Apr 16-20; **His Majesty's Theatre**, Aberdeen (01224 641122), Apr 23, 24; **King's Theatre**, Glasgow (0141-227 5511), Apr 25-27; all at 7.30pm.

SOLITAIRE Kenneth MacMillan's playful ballet to Malcolm Arnold's music joins London City Ballet's repertoire. It will be given with Ashton's *Les Patineurs* and some popular showpieces in a gala programme at Buxton (Apr 10, 11), then at Blackpool (Apr 23), Northampton (Apr 30-May 2) and York (June 21, 22). Other dates have Matthew Hart's *Cinderella*. **Opera House**, Buxton (01298 72190), Apr 10-13, 7.30pm; **Churchill**

Theatre, Bromley (0181-4606 677), Apr 15-20; **Grand Theatre**, Blackpool (01253 28372), Apr 23-27; **Derngate**, Northampton (01604 24811), Apr 30-May 2; **Grand Theatre**, York (01904 678181).



London City Ballet's repertoire includes Ashton's *Les Patineurs*

June 18-22; also Eastbourne, Nottingham, Bath, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Sheffield and Leeds.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

PHARAOH SANDERS Afrocentrism may, at last, be losing ground on the American campus, but its mystical imagery lives on in the albums of the saxophonist Pharaoh Sanders. In his early period as a Coltrane acolyte in the 1960s, his solos reached stratospheric levels of intensity and volume; recently a mellower strain has entered his playing, and he has become something of a ballad specialist. His album, *Message from Home*, finds him hammering home his message in the chant "Our Roots (Began in Africa)".

The Rhythmic, Chapel Market, London N1 (0171-715 8859), Fri 12 to Sun 21, (not Mon 15), 9pm.

CHELLENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL An exceptionally varied programme. Andy Sheppard carries the flag on the opening evening, performing with both his group, Small Co-Motion and the Bergen Big Band. The following day sees sessions by ECM guitarist Ralph Towner, Stephane Grappelli and Bobby Wellins. The closing day belongs to George Farrow, Martin Taylor and the funky Ray Brown Trio, a group which always goes down well with festival audiences. **Town Hall/Everyman Theatre**, Cheltenham, Bookings on (01242 227979), Fri 12 to Sun 14.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

THE DIRECTOR'S EYE The obvious way of celebrating the centenary of the cinema is by screening films. But there is ample scope for more static exhibitions too, and the Oxford Museum of Modern Art has, in association with the British Film Institute, come up with one of the more interesting notions. Film-makers such as Eisenstein, Fellini and Hitchcock were also gifted draughtsmen, and along with their graphic works are designs by Alfred Junge for *Black Narcissus*, Paul Leni for *Waxworks* and Christopher Hobbs for *Caravaggio*. **Museum of Modern Art**, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (01865 722733), Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm (Thurs to 9pm); Sun, 2-6pm, until Apr 14.

LONDON ON FILM The Museum of London, of course, does feature regular film screenings, most of them relating to the various

ways film-makers have worked in or around and used London. For the centenary celebrations it has added an exhibition which pursues the matter in greater and more specific detail. Also, it is illuminat-



Julie Andrews flies over London in a scene from *Mary Poppins*

ing to observe how the London scene is observed as a background and films with not the least documentary intention become valuable sources of architectural or social history. **Museum of London**, London Wall, London EC2 (0171-600 0807), Tue-Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sun, noon-5.50pm, until October 27.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

NABUCCO When first seen in Cardiff, Tim Albery's production, mounted jointly for the Welsh National and Royal Operas, proved just as controversial as the Richard Jones *Ring*, and spiced was added when Sir Edward Downes, announced to conduct at Covent Garden, withdrew and said why.

Albery certainly responds to the young Verdi's equivocal standpoint in his *Risorgimento* operas. Next week's cast boasts Alexandru Agache, and the replacement conductor is Wladimir Jurowski. **Royal Opera House**, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tue 9, Fri 12, 7.30pm.

THE MASK OF ORPHEUS Britwistle's huge opera was an equally huge success when premiered at English National Opera in 1986, but was too expensive to revive. This one-night stand to launch the South Bank's "Secret Theatres" Britwistle festival is its first airing for ten years. The cast includes Jon Garrison, Jean Rigby and Alan Ople, the producer is Stephen Langridge, and the designer Alison Chitty. Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Unmissable. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Fri 12, 7pm.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

CLOCKS AND WHISTLES Dominic Dromgoole's vaudeville production as Bush director brings us yet another striking play by yet another unknown young author. On the evidence of this sophisticated comedy, Samuel Adamson's strengths include the ability to evoke a louche, bohemian London and a knack for creating lively characters, notably an uptight young publisher earnestly flummoxed when his male lover has a fling with the Sloanish actress who likes to think she is his best friend. Bush, Shepherd's Bush, London W11 (0181-743 3388), Mon-Sat, 8pm.

LADY INTO FOX David Garratt's short story about the respect-

able wife who inexplicably transmutes into a furry Lady Chatterley with four feet and a tail has been enterprisingly turned into a sub-Aesopian oratorio by Neil Barden and Nicolas Bloomfield. The music may clunk and squiggle a bit too much for conventional tastes, but it adds to the oddness and originality of an evening whose code is not hard to break. The setting may be Victorian, but the subject is one that crosses the decades, men's sadly sporadic ability to cope with women's sexuality. **Lyric Studio**, King Street, Hamamsmith, London W6 (0181-741 8701), tonight and Tue 9-Sat 13, 8pm; matinees: Sat, 4.30pm.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

NORTH BY NORTHWEST (PG) Hitchcock's celebrated thriller from 1959, a masterful blend of suspense and drollery, returns to the cinemas in a gleaming new print. If the passing years reveal some technical limitations, time has wrought little damage on the delightful predicament faced by Cary Grant. A debonair advertising executive, he is mistaken for a government agent, and spends the rest of the film tangle with courtly villain James Mason, an icy blonde (Eva Marie Saint) and the carved heads of Mount Rushmore. Ernest Lehman's script is crisp and witty; Bernard Herrmann's turbulent music is another delight. **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691).

SMALL FACES (18) After taming Hollywood, the director Gillies MacKinnon returns to his native Glasgow for this richly rewarding account of teenage life in the late 1960s, written with his brother Billy. Brothers dominate the plot too. MacKinnon's customary hard-driven visual style keeps strict realism at bay; but there is plenty of emotional truth in the performances by young Scottish talents Iain Robertson, Joe McFadden and Kevin McKidd. **MGMs**, Chelsea (0171-352 5096), **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 0148), **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914058), **Ritz** (0171-737 2121), **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772); **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BIRTWISTLE IN BULK Love it or loathe it, the music of Sir Harrison Birtwistle can hardly be avoided on the South Bank this month. A massive celebration of the composer begins on Friday with a semi-staged performance of *The Mask of Orpheus*; later it includes a big new piece of music theatre, *Pulse Shadows*, based on the poems of Paul Celan. There is also a chance to hear another performance of *Panic* — the piece which caused a stir when it was broadcast at the Last Night of the Proms. The festival will not convert those who think of Birtwistle's music as unintelligible dissonance on a grand scale — for the reason that they will not attend. But more open-minded listeners will relish the chance to hear such a diverse survey of an avant-garde giant. **South Bank**, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Fri 12, 7pm, until May 4.

YOUTH ON SHOW After its accompanying role at last week-end's BBC Young Musician of the Year competition, the National Youth Orchestra is showcased in its own right this week. To hear these young players powering through Bruckner's epic Eighth Symphony should be memorable. **Barbican**, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thurs 11, 7.30pm.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices

858 (7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Two post Apr 8.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Sharr, Anna Carter and Pamina Dowse. Performances until Apr 20. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-713 6000).

COMPANY Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sandhu's brilliant musical on musical on musical, pro and contra. **Albery**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat and Sun 3pm.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) polky, polky handling of the Bard. The Complete History of America (abridged plays). **Lyric**, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1730), Wed-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm.

DEFINITELY DORIS Revue-style musical celebrating the life and songs of Doris Day. Cost of free, and it features more than 40 of the songs. **King's Head**, 119 Upper Street, N1 (0171-236 1916), Now previews, Sat mat Sat and Sun 3.30pm. Opens Apr 10, 7.30pm.

HARRY AND ME A one act show about a one act show. A one act show about a one act show. **Wendell's**, 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-369 1730), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat and Sun 3pm.

THE LAST ROMANTICS Maggie Steeno, John Kingston and Robert Langford in a musical about the music of the 19th century. **Royal Court**, St James's Palace, SW1 (0171-730 1743), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm and Sun, 3.30pm.

MISS JULIE Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and doom. **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6381), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 3.30pm. No post Apr 8.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Dady's powerful production with

Michael Gambon and Les Williams in David Hare's dramatization of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1739), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat 3pm.

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD Simon Russell Beale and Adrian Scarborough play the attendant lords in Shakespeare's first play, a 16th-century farce. **South Bank**, SE1 (0171-928 2252), Today, 2.15 and 7.30pm; mat Sat 3pm.

SKYLIGHT Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Les Williams in David Hare's dramatization of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1739), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat 3pm.

SOME SUNDAY DAY Martin Sherman's new play, set in Cairo in 1942, with two German army wives and the two being vainly seduced. The cast of Roger Michell's production includes: Cheryl Campbell, Sara Kesteven, Rupert Everett, Colin Firth. **Hampstead**, Swiss Cottage, N1 (0171-722 9301), Now previews, Sun, 2pm. Opens Apr 11, 7pm. Until May 18. Returns only for all previews.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW Michael Sibery and John Lumsden at the centre of Celia Edegar's peculiar but award-winning production from last year's Stratford. **Barbican**, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730), Now previews, 7.15pm mat Sat 3pm. Opens Apr 9, 7pm. Then in rep with *Hamlet* and *Julius*.

TAP DOLLS Don Parry's series of dances in working-boats returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff, though some dance aficionados have been unimpressed. **Lyric**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5081), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm.

TOMMY Hugely impressive staging of the troubled child's apocalyptic to prelate world. Loads of electronic music disguise the implausibility. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5389), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed and Sat, 3pm.

VICTORIANA New political play by David Hare, this time about Dickens, Gladstone and the nation's concern for prostitutes. **John Hare** directs. **New End**, 27 New End, NW8 (0171-794 0022), Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 4.30pm. Until Apr 28.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Jeremy Sinden plays the outward bound in the new annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amusing stage effects here but still delightful. **Old Vic**, Wilton Road, SE1 (0171-928 6656), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

Buddy, Strand (0171-330 8901)

Communications, Savoy (0171-330 8988)

Fanny, Playhouse (0171-839 4401)

Graveyard, Dominion (0171-416 8089)

Julian, Victoria Palace (0171-634 1312)

Black and White, Piccadilly (0171-369 1744)

Miss Saigon, Chrysalis (0171-494 5400)

Divert, Palladium (0171-494 5020)

Sunset Boulevard, Adelphi (0171-344 0051)

The Woman in Black, Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

NADIA Adventures of Dracula's offspring in New York. Any but effective horror film from US independent. **Michael Aronovitz**, With Elinor Lowenstein and Peter Fonda. **Chelsea**, Kensington (01426 914666).

ICA (0171-930 3647) **MGM** Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148).

NORTH BY NORTHWEST (PG) See Critics' Choice, above.

SMALL FACES (18) See Critics' Choice, above.

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS (15) Joe Black satire about Hollywood, with Kevin Spacey as a marvellous studio executive, and Frank Whaley, Director, George Huang.

MGMs, Fulham Road (0171-370 2638) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Old Vic** (01426 91564) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

DUNSTON CHECKS (PG) Orange-juice comedy about a five-star hotel. **Pinky** family comedy, with Jason Alexander, Rupert Everett and Faye Dunaway. Director, Ken Kneale.

MGMs, Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Swire**, Colindale (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 91564) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

GET SHORTY (15) John Travolta's lecherous take on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from director Barry Levinson. **Lyric** (0171-737 2121) **Swire/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

HEAT (15) LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crook. Excellent cast crime drama from writer-director Michael Mann.

MGMs, Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trancendence** (0171-434 0031) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

LA CROISSANTIERE (15) The perfect housewife gets her revenge on her employer. Absorbing version of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement in Stone*, with Isabelle Huppert, Sandrine Bonnaire.

MGMs, Pavilion Street (0171-330 0631) **Swire**, Colindale (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 91564) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

CUTTHROAT ISLAND (PG) Resuscitated classic movie, with lead-meat stars (Geena Davis, Matthew McConaughey). Director, Barry Levinson.

MGMs, Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trancendence** (0171-434 0031) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol () on release across the country

DEAD MAN WALKING (15) Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row. Powerful, carefully balanced drama about capital punishment. Director, Tim Robbins.

Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Gale** (0171-727 2042) **MGMs**, Baker Street (0171-935 2772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2638) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-494 5081) **Odeon**, Kensington (01426 914666) **Swire**, Colindale (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 91564) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Sarcastic, minimalist drama from director Mike Figgis.

MGMs, Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trancendence** (0171-434 0031) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

TRANSPOTTING (18) Absurdist look at middle class, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the Shallow Grass team.

MGMs, Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trancendence** (0171-434 0031) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

NIXON (15) Enthralling, overlong portrait of Anthony Hopkins and too much razor-sharp dialogue from director Oliver Stone.

MGMs, Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trancendence** (0171-434 0031) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

RESTORATION (15) Life and love of a 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr.). Costume extravaganza, as it may. With Meg Ryan and Sam Neil. **Odeon**, Mezzanine (01426 915683).

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (U) Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee.

Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Curzon**, Mayfield (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1720) **Meeting Hall**, Coronet (0171-727 6705) **Odeon**, Kensington (01426 914666) **Lyric** (0171-737 2121) **Swire**, Colindale (01426 914666).

SIT, BILKO (PG) Cross-genre film from Phil Saver's television comedy classic, with Steve Martin as the conniving army sergeant. With Dan Aykroyd. **Empire** (0171-437 2124) **MGMs**, Fulham Road (0171-370 2638) **Trancendence** (0171-434 0031) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332).

STRANGE DAYS (18) Uncomfortable apocalyptic drama, with Ralph Fiennes as a trafficker in virtual reality. With Angela Bessie, Dennis, Kathryn Bigelow. **Barbican**, St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) **Lyric** (0171-437 4343) **UCA** Whiteleys (0171-792 3332).

TOY

INSIDE STORY

3

'He was walking into the jaws of a seriously cut-throat industry'



Continued from page 1
reading *A Distant Mirror*. Barbara Tuchman's blood-soaked portrait of fourteenth-century Europe. A journalists' agent by profession, he had barely done any writing himself in four years, though as a film buff he had always told himself and others that one day he would write a screenplay. A particular paragraph of Tuchman's roused in him the sleeping cinema enthusiast. It concerned Sir Richard Hawkwood, a fearsome British mercenary who "fought for Pisa against Florence and vice versa" and inspired the proverb "An Italianised Englishman is a devil incarnate".

Six hundred years later Hawkwood became Richard Rees's hero. "I've always loved history," he said (despite a degree in business studies) from behind an enormous bowl of mussels at the old-fashioned but fashionable Le Dôme on Sunset Boulevard. "It's the vividness of the characters you come across. You think 'bloody hell, these are guys that lived and breathed'."

In a small afternoon in Cambridge University li-

brary, Hawkwood was woven into a two-page outline for a tortuous tale of slaughter, passion and revenge. Twenty sample pages of dialogue were written and polished over the next two weeks and dispatched under the name Steven Stransky ("I thought my own name sounded a bit bland") mere hours before the competition deadline.

When told he'd won, Rees thought at first his leg was being pulled. Not so, Norma Heyman, one of the judges, said. *The Mercenary's Tale* stood out for the quality of its writing and a truly frightening portrayal of vengeance.

More praise followed from the other judges. Dates were chosen for the first prize of a week of meetings in Hollywood in which Rees would pitch the screenplay to industry players in a position to get it made. Finally, displaying an enviable lack of writer's block, he polished off the rest of the screenplay and re-named it *The Privateer*.

Flying into Los Angeles can be intimidating at the best of times. Walking as an unknown with a single bright idea into the jaws of the world's most cut-throat service industry takes nerves of steel. Rees deserved a stroke of luck, and he duly got one. A friend from his school days, now a producer in LA, had learned of *The Privateer* from the columns of *The Times* and solicited a copy of the script.

"I couldn't believe this was his first draft," said Russell Fisher, a development executive at the independent production company Constantine Films, who spends most of his time seeking out literary properties to adapt for film. "It was such refreshing stuff. The structure was expertly laid-down and the characters so vivid you could practically feel the grime on their tunics. In six years I've read thousands of scripts and liked only three. This was one of them."

Later, McElwaine said that he was especially taken with the villain of the piece, a demonic priest-slaying Turk called Issouf Rise. "Great heavy," said the agent. "Good heavies are very hard to create, but every successful movie going back to Dr No

has a great antagonist." Fisher met Rees at LA's international airport and took him to the Chateau Marmont Hotel on Sunset Boulevard. From a sixth-floor suite in this neo-gothic shrine to hedonism, he enjoyed panoramic views of the Hollywood Hills to the north and of LA's urban sprawl to the south. The Chateau Marmont is where John Belushi died of an overdose in 1982. More recently it was taken over for an experimental art show whose most striking exhibit consisted of half a dozen topless women handing out brochures round the pool. Rees chose subtle stimulation. He fought off jet lag at the achingly trendy Le Colonial, a new Vietnamese restaurant favoured by Kim Basinger and David Hockney. The following lunchtime he and Fisher made the first of several trips to Le Dôme.

Power lunching is the stuff of cliché, but also of good business. Fisher wanted to see *The Privateer* not simply bought but turned into a film. To this end he had shown it to colleagues, recommended it through them to ICM and let it be known where the writer would be lunching. On cue, the two-man team of John Irvin (director of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* and *Hammerhead*) and David Giler (producer of the *Alien* films)

walked in, introduced themselves and sat down at the next table. The talk was general but the connection had been made. Irvin and Giler also happened to be ICM clients, which would help should the agency decide to "package" *The Privateer* for studio consumption. "I didn't realise until afterwards that it had all been planned," Rees said. It certainly paid off. Phone calls throughout that afternoon led to McElwaine's request for a meeting later in the week.

Flushed with beginner's luck, Rees accepted Fisher's invitation to take part in the Hollywood ritual known as Monday Night At Morton's: dinner in Beverly Hills with a crowd of real and aspiring moguls who turn up not so much for the seared tuna as to be seen in the only restaurant that Peter Morton dignifies with his name. (His others are the Hard Rock Cafés.) Day one had passed off auspiciously. Days two and three were less encouraging. Rees splashed gamely through pouring rain to meetings with Fine Line Features, Columbia Pictures, and Rob Levine at TriStar only to hear that his contacts hadn't read his script. It was the same story at the Creative Artists' Agency, ICM's biggest rival, where the worker bees of the entertain-

ment business buzz to and fro across a giant marble lobby wearing headsets with "head up" microphones, presumably to show the rest of us that mere telephones are for wimps.

Undeterred, Rees practised the terrifying art of pitching a screenplay from cold. Launching without preamble into a description of a complex medieval melodrama, he quickly learned which soundbites grabbed his listeners' attention. Calling *The Privateer* "an English Western" seemed to work with Ken Hardy, an agent at CAA. "I really think I got him," Rees said afterwards, pacing up and down Santa Monica Boulevard. "You can tell by the eyes."

Even so, CAA chose to sit on the fence. A vice-president of production at Fine Line Features was non-committal. And Lisa Henson, installed in the Art Deco splendour of Culver City's Irving Thalberg Building as president of Columbia Pictures, said the script was not for her since it would need a "medium-to-high budget" of up to \$60 million. (The studio's last period drama, *First Knight*, flopped despite performances by Sean Connery and Richard Gere.) Henson's assistant added deflatingly that the script was "a great writing sample", undertaken "for the experience". By now Rees had higher hopes. "I can only schmooze so

long, then I want to get some decisions made," he said, refuelling on espresso and Marlboro Lights back at Le Dôme, which had become base camp for his assault on Mount Hollywood.

He did not have to wait long. Within 48 hours he was on McElwaine's elite client list, rescheduling his return to London to squeeze in extra meetings with Irvin and Giler. By the following Monday they had committed themselves to *The Privateer* and furnished Rees with suggestions for a second draft. By Tuesday McElwaine had stipulated an Executive Producer credit for

his new client should the film be made. There was even heady talk of turning Sir Richard Hawkwood into a serial hero à la Batman.

Talk is cheap, especially in Hollywood. *The Privateer*, does not yet have the massive financing required nowadays for even a medium-budget film, but no one can accuse its creator of cooling his heels during his week in the networking capital of the world. He pitched his script nine times, dined in most of Hollywood's top restaurants, and found himself a world-class agent and two established collaborators. He even managed to lose \$300 on blackjack in Las Vegas. When I caught up with him for the last time, in the airport departure lounge, he was... fast asleep.

Royal day for 'feet washing'

Ruth Gledhill on the Maundy Thursday service at Norwich



THE compelling combination of despair and hope, which is the predominant feature of Holy Week in the run up to Good Friday and Easter Day, is nowhere more apparent than at the annual office for Royal Maundy, at which the Queen distributes Maundy coins to pensioners, selected because of their service to the church and community. This year the service was held at Norwich cathedral. "Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults," the choir sang as the Queen distributed the small red and white purses containing the coins to 70 men and women on the southside of the cathedral. The number of recipients of the silver pence varies each year according to the age of the sovereign.

Those of us on the north side caught a glimpse of the Queen's red coat and hat, and the white linen of the Lord High Almoner, the Rt Rev John Taylor, who recently retired as Bishop of St Albans.

Norwich cathedral is this year celebrating the 900th anniversary of the laying of its foundation stone, and the Queen's Maundy Thursday visit, her first to the city for ten years, was the highlight of the festivity.

The Royal Maundy is a shortened survival of the church's ancient ceremony of *Adlavium*, or foot washing, a symbolic re-enactment of the Last Supper, at which Christ washed the feet of His disciples. The service takes its name from the Latin *Mandatum*, or commandment, and opens with the Lord High Almoner reading the relevant passage from St John's Gospel: "Jesus said: I give you a new commandment: love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another." Although the washing of feet at the Royal Maundy was discontinued in 1730, Bishop Taylor and his assistants were "girded" with linen towels in remembrance of this, some of the towels dating from 1883, and they carried the traditional nosegays of sweet herbs.

The Duke of Edinburgh read the first lesson from St John's Gospel, with references to love and betrayal. The second lesson — St Matthew's parable of the last judgment — was read by Canon Michael Perham, the Vice Dean.

● Norwich Cathedral, Norfolk NR1 4EG (01603 219483).

● At a Service Near You, a collection Ruth Gledhill's "At Your Service" columns in *The Times*, is now on sale (Hodder & Stoughton £7.99).

AT YOUR SERVICE

A five-star guide

DEAN: The Very Rev Stephen Platten
ARCHITECTURE: Romanesque in style, begun 900 years ago and breathtakingly beautiful with its 315ft spire and vaulted nave. ★★★★★
MUSIC: From our seats near the west door we could make out the ghostly voices of the cathedral choir and the Chapel Royal choir — the latter's forebears sang at Agincourt. ★★★★★
LITURGY: Sometimes mysterious texts and prayers of charity, love and sin, with hymns and anthems. ★★★★★
AFTER SERVICE CARE: Private reception for the recipients of the Maundy gifts.
SPIRITUAL HIGH: One to inspire sombre reflection ★★

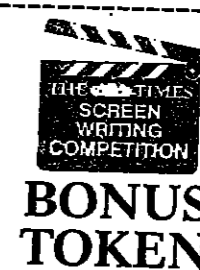
Cover photograph of Richard Rees by EVAN HURD
Graphic on this page by LAURA SYLVESTER

THE TIMES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 1996

Your chance to become a scriptwriter

The Times Screenwriting Competition 1996 aims to find Britain's top filmwriting talent and offers a first prize of an all-expenses-paid trip to Hollywood to pitch a script before key executives at major studios. To enter collect four of the six tokens which have been published, a bonus token is printed below. Your entry should be in English, typed and double-spaced on A4 paper and in the following form: a) a 100-word précis which sells your film script and includes the title b) a treatment of not more than 750 words incorporating the story, characters, structure and genre, together with your name, address, and daytime telephone number at the top of the first sheet, and c) three consecutive sample scenes submitted on a minimum of two A4 pages.

Send your entry to: The Times Screenwriting Competition 1996, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8QS. Closing date May 9, 1996. Full terms and conditions appeared on Thursday March 28, 1996.



For Eurostar and Continental Rail Travel

- London to Paris 3hrs ● London to Brussels 3hrs15m
ALSO SERVING LILLE AND CALAIS
- City Centre to City Centre ● Immediate reservations - tickets dispatched the same day
- 5000 onward destinations ● Special Discount Rates ● Hotel accommodation ● Car Hire

NOW
DEPARTURES
FROM
ASHFORD

Paris
£59
RETURN

0990-300 003
BOOKING & INFORMATION

TIM 02

the
Railshop

For brochure and timetable call free on 0800 02 4000 (24 hrs)

The garden-visitor's guide to helpful books, and mini-tours around four magnificent British gardens

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q We are trying to create a garden in half an acre of fertile soil surrounding our cottage in Normandy. Every holiday we do a bit of clearing and planting, but two months later the garden has returned to wilderness, with grass 4ft high. Should we spray, burn, or rotovate? — A.L.W. Ecclestone, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

A How do you calm down growth on fertile soil in balmy Normandy? If this were rocky Spain, or Kerry, with the soil painted on as thin as margarine on a British Rail sandwich, things would be different. But it's not Normandy is like England but warmer, and you must maintain the garden as you would here: often. I would neither spray, burn nor rotovate. By all means have some close gardening around the cottage, but for the greater part I would look to wild gardening, with as little cultivation as possible. Use trees, including fruit, vigorous shrubs, and naturalised perennials. Make the most of local wild flowers. Mow just where you need to and no more. Perhaps someone could be hired to run a mower over the main paths once a month? When you plant, do all you can to reduce the competition from weeds during establishment. Use commercial mulch mats, or upside-down turf around young trees and shrubs.

Q Deer are consuming my garden, especially the roses and dianthus. Neighbours tell me that nothing less than a 15ft fence will deter them. Now that growth is starting I am experimenting with cat's head scarecrows. Do you know of a deterrent? — H. MacColl, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

A Open-plan gardens suffer the worst from deer. Total fencing is outrageously expensive and ugly, although 15ft is not necessary, even for the larger species of deer. If you can establish boundary hedges of crude, sacrificial vegetation, using smaller fences, and narrow down entry to strategic points, deterrents

become a possibility. If you can persuade the deer to turn away at those points, you are winning. Cat's head scarecrows are new to me. I'd like to hear more about them.

Q My flat has a north-facing flat roof outside its windows. On it are several aluminium, trough-shaped cans in which I would like to grow plants. Will any shrub tolerate growing in them, and can I fill them with garden soil? — Mrs E.M. Roberts, Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

A Whatever you grow, the cans must be properly drained. Use a layer of coarse gravel and/or bricks to cover the holes. You could use garden soil but a coarse compost or shredded bark would be better. Those cans are going to be bitterly cold in winter, and won't get much sun in summer, so the choice of plants is not great. In summer you could bed them out, using shade tolerant plants such as busy lizzies. But shrubs would have to have a cation constitution to survive, and their roots would intermingle, making periodic re-potting difficult. Aim for permanent evergreen planting in some cans and colour from bedding in the others. Then you would at least have something to look at in winter. Try blocks of box, or sweet-scented *Sarcococca humilis*, like little runs of hedge. They could be moved against a wall for protection in winter, and set out as a variable "parterre" in summer. Tall shrubs run the risk of blowing over, so use plants which can be cut down each spring to give colourful winter twigs, like *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima' (variegated white in summer) and some of the blue or orange-stemmed willows.

Q Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

Mad to use bonemeal and blood?

THE furor over BSE raises the question of whether or not we should use blood and bonemeal in gardens. It seems that the temperatures used to sterilise bonemeal may not be high enough to kill the disease and that it may linger in the soil. I shall continue to use bonemeal, with gloves, and be sure (as ever) not to breathe in the dust. For those who will not take the risk, there are alternative artificial fertilisers, the cheapest being Growmore for balanced, slow release, and sulphate and ammonia for high nitrogen.



Outstanding yew hedges and topiary at Hole Park, Rolvenden, near Cranbrook, Kent, help to provide a striking setting for mixed borders and rose and sunken gardens

Parks that spring off the page

Easter weekend is the time many people start their garden-planting year so, as a start, here is a selection of invaluable guidebooks.

The 1996 edition of *The Good Gardens Guide* (Verminion, £13.99) is the last of seven edited by Graham Rose, who died last year, and Peter King. The book includes more than 1,000 British gardens and a limited selection from France, Holland and Belgium. Readers can decide whether they agree with the editors' awards of one star or, in 113 cases, two stars, and enjoy potted biographies of history's great gardeners.

Illustrations and overall presentation are the fortes of *The Gardener's Guide to Britain* (Pavilion, £12.99) by Patrick Taylor, now in his fifth year. Another feature is the number of specialist nurseries, listed with a total of about 450 venues. There are not as many statistics as in *The Good Gardens Guide*, but the text (produced by GGG inspectors) is more personal.

The two "yellow books", *Gardens of England and Wales*, listing 3,500 gardens (National Gardens Scheme, £3.50) and *Gardens of Scotland*, with more than 300 gardens (Scotland's Garden Scheme, £2.50), are the most comprehensive. They contain



Garden fountain at Ascott, Buckinghamshire (left), and one of the linked ponds at Forde Abbey, Somerset

the greatest number of potential discoveries — small gardens that open once or twice a year and are little known outside their immediate area.

It was in 1927 that the first gardens opened under the auspices of the National Gardens Scheme (1931 in Scotland), when gardens charged one shilling (5p) entrance. There is a distinguished group of 50 gardens (44 in England and Wales, six in Scotland) that opened in the inaugural year and are operating more than 60 years later. Here are four that are open this weekend.

Q Hole Park, Rolvenden, near Cranbrook, Kent (01580 241251).

On B2086 between Cranbrook and Rolvenden. Open, 2-6pm, April 7, 14, 24, 25; May 5, 15, 19, 26; June 5; Oct 13, 20, £2.50, children under 12, 50p.

Hole Park is a fine example of an early 20th-century garden revitalised in recent decades. The formal framework of dividing walls, terraces and lawns, decorated with ornaments and, in particular, out-

standing yew hedges and topiary, has been carefully preserved. The established features provide the setting for mixed borders, rose and sunken gardens, all benefiting from rejuvenated planting. But the garden's character has been greatly expanded by the woodland garden added by its owner, David Barham. Coming to life at this time of year, the wooded dell, with water running through, is typical of the Wealden countryside, and the addition of plants to complement native bluebells and other wild flowers has been done sensitively. Daffodils are followed by a display of rhododendrons and azaleas. This early in the season, the garden's setting in well-preserved parkland and its views out to the Weald are particularly enjoyable.

Q The Hirsell, Coldstream, Berwickshire (01890 882834).

Just west of Coldstream on A697. Open daily all year 10am-4.30pm. £2 parking charge only.

Much of this garden's character and quality is thanks to the attention of Lord Home of the Hirsel, whose lifelong home it was until his death last year. The gardens surround the centuries-old family house, encompassing a large lake and extending along the banks of the Leet Water, which flows into the Tweed a mile away in Coldstream. Spring into summer sees a succession of

snowdrops and aconites, a breathtaking quantity of daffodils, and the rhododendrons and azaleas that Lord Home especially liked and planted in Dundock Wood. But, in addition to the gardening interest, it is somewhere to appreciate a rare natural environment, with magnificent trees, secluded walks and, at this time of year, an absorbing variety of nesting birds.

Q Ascott, Wing, near Leighton Buzzard, Buckinghamshire (01296 688242).

South of A410, half a mile east of Wing. Open April 2-May 5 and Sept 3-29. Tues-Sun: May 10-Aug 30, Wed and last Sun in month. All 2-6pm (last entry 5pm). £3, children £1.50, under-fives free.

The Rothschild family may not have had a monopoly on grand Victorian gardening, but they produced some of the most spectacular examples, among which Ascott survives in sparkling condition, thanks to the National Trust, which took over the garden in the



Garden fountain at Ascott, Buckinghamshire (left), and one of the linked ponds at Forde Abbey, Somerset

1950s. After Leopold de Rothschild acquired the property during the 1870s he employed the period's smartest firm of nurserymen and garden contractors, James Veitch and Sons of Chelsea.

Throughout the 39 acres there is a sense of grandeur: sweeping terraces and lawns with outstanding cedars and other evergreen trees; long, double herbaceous borders; rose gardens and a Dutch garden bedded out with annuals that all come to a peak later in the year. At this time there is a spectacular display of spring bulbs and, although the garden's colour is still restrained, this is a time to appreciate the golden and green yew topiary, including a topiary sundial, as well as the memorable views out from the garden across the Vale of Aylesbury. Two grandiose fountain groups, one bronze the other marble, by the American Ralph Waldo Story, complete the atmosphere of luxuriant quality.

Q Forde Abbey, Chard, Somerset (01460 220231).

Off A30, four miles southwest of Chard. Open 10am-4.30pm all year. £3.25, children under 15 free.

Created around the ancient buildings of the Cistercian abbey, with abundant water in ponds linked by streams, Forde Abbey is an established garden that can be enjoyed at any time of the year, with or without horticultural decoration.

Much of this quality comes later in the year, through borders and climbers, vegetables in the immaculate walled kitchen garden behind the abbey, and the collection of Asiatic primulas that are a forte in the lakeside bog garden. But there is plenty to enjoy now, such as early flowering magnolias among the impressive collection in the shrubbery, the revitalised rock garden, and the many rare trees in the arboretum that has steadily expanded since its first plantings in 1947.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

WEEKEND TIPS

- Be prepared to spray aphids on greenhouse plants as the weather warms up.
- Clip summer-flowering heathers as the new shoots begin to grow.
- Plant gladioli at a depth of 6in and set them on sand in heavy soils.
- Protect wall blossom and early flowering shrubs against night frosts, with netting or fleece.

The plot to get more taste

EASTER is traditionally the start of a period of intensive activity in the vegetable garden and allotment. After preparing the ground, now is the time to attend to:

ASPARAGUS: plant new beds. Spread out the roots 5in deep in a 1ft-wide trench. The soil must be rich in well-rotted manure or compost, well drained and in a sunny, sheltered spot. Be patient — asparagus must be kept absolutely weed-free, and it takes two years for a decent crop to develop. Connover's Colossal is the best.

POTATOES: plant early varieties. Spuds are ideal for clearing new ground — the process of earthing up and their dense canopy help to break down the soil and control weeds. Duke of York and Epicure offer the finest flavour.

SHALLOTS AND ONIONS: place the sets 6in apart in rich, well-drained soil. Firm the surface of the ground before you press them in so that just the tips are left showing. Shallots are easy to grow; Dutch yellow is a good, basic variety. Try to find heat-treated onions — they

VEGETABLES

will not bolt in dry weather. Stuttgarter Giant and Ailsa Craig are old reliables, but from Suttons, for the sake of variety.

● Spring is late and much of the ground is still cold and wet. But warmer weather can't be far away so, in coming weeks:

SOW OUTDOORS: summer carrots (Amsterdam Forcing is quickest to mature); parsley; early dwarf peas (Kelvedon Wonder is difficult to beat); leeks (Musselburgh); broad beans (Masterpiece Longpod); summer cabbage (Golden Acre, for fast maturing, Winnigstadl, ready for cutting in late summer).

SOW IN POTS under glass or on a warm windowsill: courgette (Golden Zucchini for creamy flesh and good flavour); ridge cucumber (Burpee Hybrid).

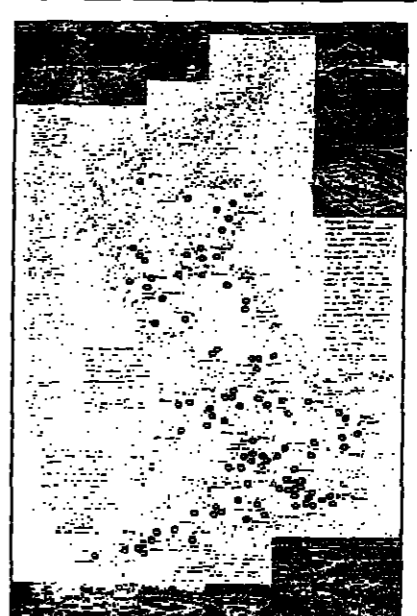
STRAWBERRIES: plant now (always buy from a first-class grower to avoid diseased plants).

DAVID BLUNDELL

Free

Phone for a garden map

Here's a free guide to garden-planting. A beautifully artworked map showing some of the finest gardens in Britain is being offered by the British Tourist Authority to any Times reader who telephones its office on 01271 326988.



WE OFFER MORE THAN A SALES RECEIPT AFTER THE SALE



More personal service. More selection. And more support after the sale. Your John Deere dealer has more to offer you. From lawn tractors to multi-terrain mowers, there is a product to make your job easier. The LX2100 Lawn Tractor is a good example. This rugged built hydraulic model with two-pedal controls is as easy on driving a car. It features a quiet 1049W (17-hp category) liquid-cooled engine, 48-cm cutting width and an extra-tight 20-inch turning radius for outstanding handling. Come see why the sale is just the beginning of what you get with John Deere. See your dealer now.

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



Handwritten text in Arabic script.

COLLECTING

Myths and magic of a painted egg

If you shell out the equivalent of two years' rent on a porcelain egg — that's the start of an obsession, says Jenny McClean

I like the idea that someone sat down and made this out of an ordinary lump of wax and then covered it in bugle beads. It's a labour of love," Percy Savage, a fashion PR and historian, was reminiscing about one of the 400 decorated eggs he has collected on his travels over the past 40 years. This particular egg, like all the best models, is Russian. On it, tiny glass beads form the letters "XB", the Cyrillic abbreviation for "Christ is Risen".

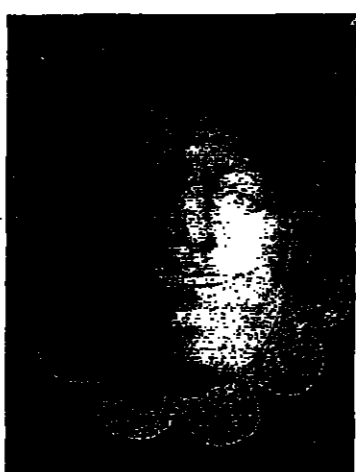
Eggs and Easter go together like children and chocolate. In the Eastern Orthodox Church eggs are painted red, the colour of blood and birth. In Austria they are green to symbolise nature's renewal.

Goddesses of early mythology were sometimes depicted hatching from eggs (perhaps, in sun-worshipping societies, because of the resemblance of the yolk to the sun). In ancient Egypt eggs were hung in temples to induce fertility, while in ancient Rome, expectant mothers carried eggs to ward off evil.

The tradition of decorating eggs and giving them as presents began in China in the 8th century BC. The story goes that, because all fires had to be extinguished in the run-up to the spring festival, an inventive chieftain disguised some pre-boiled eggs as edible presents.

Mr Savage also gives eggs as gifts. But of the non-edible variety. "I want to give a friend something special. I sometimes choose an egg from my collection. I've found this emblem of fertility in every corner of the world — Russia, America, Japan. I see it as a unifying symbol: artisans of the world unite."

There are, naturally, favourites that he is unlikely to part with, such as pre-Russian Revolution poker-work and painted wooden eggs.



Decorated cardboard sun egg

"When I was a child my mother tried to teach me pokerwork, without success," he says. "I'm full of admiration that someone went to all the trouble of making these shapes so that they would open, then decorating and painting them."

Although these eggs were bought cheaply in a flea market, they are rarer than the more expensive porcelain models, Mr Savage says.

His discovery of the joy of eggs began soon after he arrived in Britain from Australia as an art student, with only a box of paints and a parrot in a cage ("which Customs wouldn't let in"). He hated London, food rationing, and the Slade School of Art, so he moved to Paris, where he spent 27 years working with the fashion houses.

"We had a client at Lanvin, a Russian émigré, who collected small Fabergé eggs, which she wore as charms. I thought then that eggs



Percy Savage with some of his 400 eggs, made in a variety of materials. Individual eggs in the collection cost from a few pence to £600

were a good thing to collect because you could pack them up and travel with them, as she had done."

The Russian took the young Percy to the antique shop next door, where he bought his first egg: Russian, duck-egg blue porcelain painted with flowers and now about 150 years old. He paid £250 for it, which, at the time (the 1950s), was the equivalent of two years' rent. "It was a lot less expensive than some of them: I just wanted an egg of my own" is his justification for this extravagance.

The most he has ever paid for an egg is £600, in the mid-1960s. The least, a few pence, for examples such as a Kisch Fabergé-copy perfume container, a home-made Snoopy, a "Silly Putty" holder, or the many others he has bought just because they amused him.

He gets some eggs for nothing, as is the way when friends know you are a collector. Occasionally he just asks for one, as he did in a Turkish

WHERE TO SEE AND BUY EGGS

For £250 to £3,500 you can get a limited edition egg designed by Theo Fabergé (who claims to be Carl's Fabergé's only surviving grandson) at the St Petersburg Collection, 42 Burlington Arcade, Piccadilly, London W1V 9AE (0171-495 2883, or the House of Burlington, 1a Eastgate Row, Chester CH1 1LQ (01244 342034).

Hand-decorated eggs from a few pounds upwards are made by the 2,000 members of the Egg Crafters' Guild of Great Britain. They can turn pigeon eggs into pill boxes and ostrich eggs into clocks. Goose eggs are favourite, being large, strong and plentiful. Details from Joa Cutts, The Studio, 7 Hyton Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE29 0EE (0191-238 3648).

The Clowns Gallery, Hackney, east London, has more than 70 porcelain eggs painted with the "slap" or face of British clowns over the past 50 years. The eggs serve as unofficial patents of individual clowns' make-up. The Clowns Gallery, 1 Hillman Street, London E8 (0171-723 3877); open on the first Friday of each month, 11am-4pm and 7.30-10pm, or by appointment. Free.

church when he wanted one of the pottery eggs suspended from chandeliers. They were happy to oblige, he says.

A plain wooden egg with scratch marks around the middle turned out to be a clothes drier's last.

Another, which looked like wood, was a carved nut which unscrewed in the middle to hold who-knows-what — pills, snuff, pins, sweets?

The fun of eggs, as Fabergé knew, is the secret within. (Mr Savage's Fabergé collection consisted of four

small eggs, which he has since sold.)

He cannot remember how much he paid for the gruesome Perspex egg with the glass eye inside, or the 1920s wooden egg from Germany painted as a flapper's face.

You can find eggs anywhere — from auction rooms to car-boot sales, he says. The Paris flea market was a fertile source and Portobello Road in west London is "not bad".

He wonders why there are so few other collectors. "Perhaps it's because eggs don't look too good all together. I like to display mine individually or in small groups in front of books or in a window."

Mr Savage regards his collection as an investment and is happy to sell "an egg or two", for instance, to buy air tickets to visit his daughter in Australia.

"Carl Fabergé said: 'Expensive things interest me little if the value is merely in so many diamonds or pearls.' My sentiments exactly," Mr Savage says.

SALEROOM



AMONG items at the Poteries Antique Centre auction in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, at noon today are about 100 Beatrix Potter figures made by the Beswick company. Mrs Flopsy Bunny, Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny are estimated at £50 to £70. The Royal Doulton section has 120 figures from the Bunnikin range, including Clown, at £220 to £250.

THE weekend is awash with antique fairs. About 300 dealers will be at Donington Park Exhibition Centre today and tomorrow, while a smaller group will offer pre-1950 items at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire, tomorrow and Monday. London's biggest event is at the Westley Exhibition Centre on Monday.

HIGHLIGHTS of the L.S. Lowry exhibition at the Richard Green Gallery, Bond Street, London, on Wednesday include *Going to Work*, showing his famous matchstick figures, and *Fishing Smacks* featuring the boats at Lytham, Lancashire, where the artist spent childhood holidays. Prices from £16,000.

THE literary archive of author, painter, illustrator and collector Lady Dorothy Nevill (1826-1913) could raise more than £4,000 at Christie's South Kensington on Friday. Highlights include her birthday book, designed by Kate Greenaway and including the signatures of Mark Twain, Charles Dickens and Oscar Wilde (£700 to £1,000).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

Poteries Antique Centre, 271 Waterloo Road, Colbridge, Stoke-on-Trent, (0182 204455). Donington Park Exhibition Centre, Castle Donington, Leicestershire (01455 233495). Lamport Hall, Lamport, Northamptonshire (01552 595622). Westley Exhibition Centre (Hall 3), Westley Complex, London (01444 40570). Richard Green Gallery, 4 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 3939). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611).

EASTER JUMBO CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Proverbial warning as writer's almost eaten by lions and awaiting death (5,5,6,11)
- 15 Providing nourishment until ration is redistributed (11)
- 16 An Indian commanding officer reported in island capital (7)
- 17 Navigator responsible for some Cornish pirates (7)
- 18 Marx meeting a remarkable person, such as Queequeg (9)
- 19 Change — for instance, say all the time (11)
- 20 Soldiers on annual test relating to muscular movement (5)
- 21 One who accepts the situation about a bill (7)
- 23 Made arrangement with swimming group in early learning centre (4,9)
- 24 Dog after £25 hairstyle (4-4)
- 27 Article returned provided it is unaffected (4)
- 28 Come out in the open and steal a march, perhaps (4,3,3)
- 30 As national hero, squadron leader isn't commonly a lifeless pilot (5,6)
- 33 Chair and Canal Turn causing complete disorder? (10)
- 35 Being rather tardy, look smart about it (7)
- 36 Mild green giving a very old Conservative bother (7)
- 38 Composer puts case for weapon without hesitation (5)
- 39 With cooked tripe one gets nearly all of the stomach lining (10)
- 41 Brontë season pronounced a trend-setter (4-6)
- 43 Persuading to talk, or leaving the platform (7,3)
- 46 Art of controlling people, say, when getting caught by crowd (10)
- 48 Guard's intended for Australian town, so-called (5)
- 51 Piner's sinister part for a musician (7)
- 52 Long-standing Arts course cut after entry by six to university (7)
- 54 What one may say thus after swearing is obvious (2,5)
- 56 Meeting to study border once circular letter's gone out (11)
- 57 A measure of Arab strength (10)
- 59 Titled woman back in the slammer (4)
- 61 One greeting drunk in New York in state of total blankness (8)
- 63 Plant to sow, say, old person's to think about (10)
- 65 Warlords endlessly parade with arms (7)
- 67 Make a contribution to deposit on home (5)
- 69 Foolish don't met a nun, having an unwelcome date? (11)
- 70 One who stops at nothing once centre half dodged, say (9)
- 72 Time to celebrate wiping the slate clean (7)
- 73 Unusually lenient illustrator of 48 (7)
- 74 Limited approval given by team colleague? That's rough (11)
- 75 Showing equanimity, removing the long grass using the iron? (6,3,5,4,3,6)

DOWN

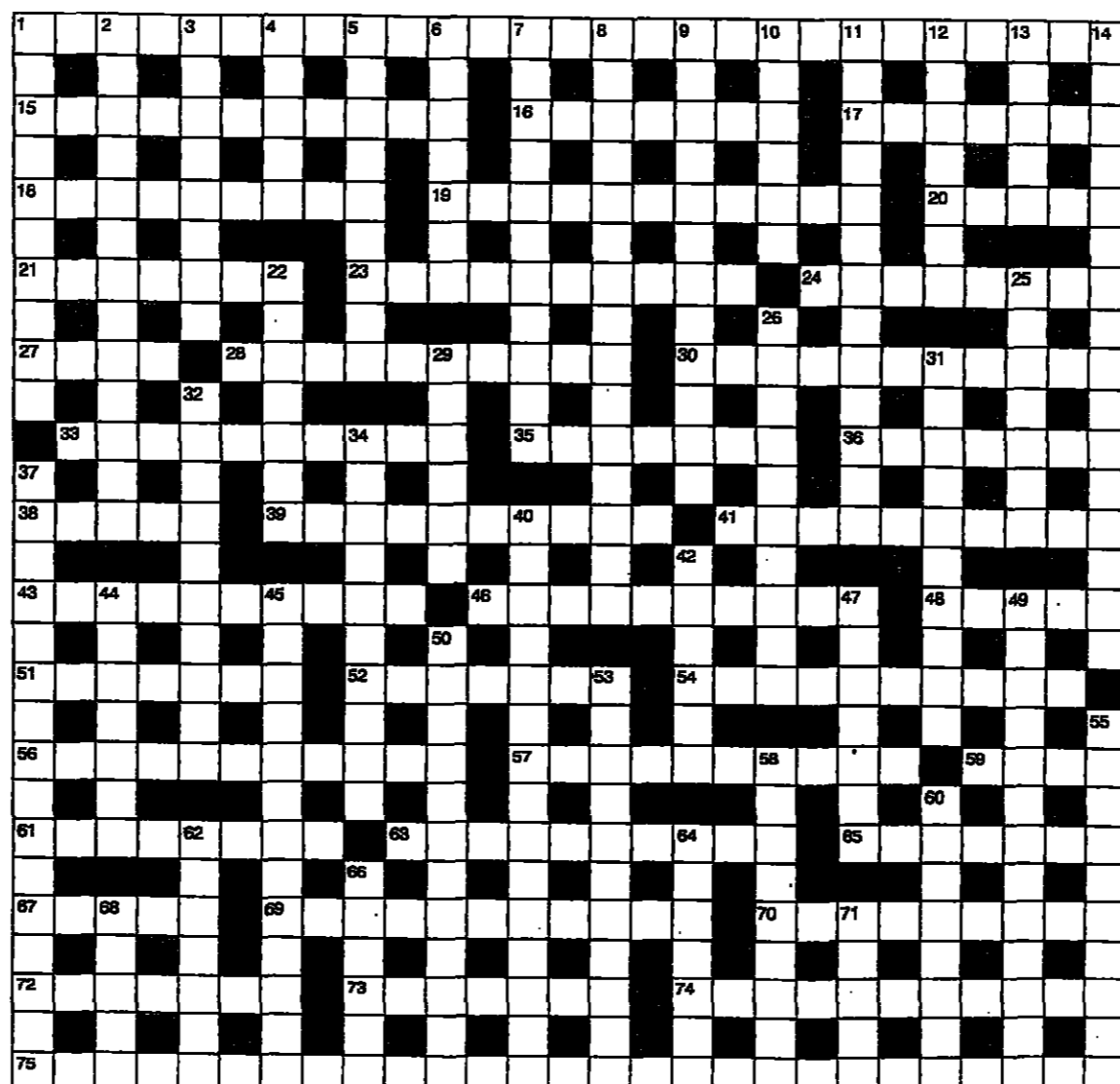
- 1 Stupefied by blows, wife-beater gets plastered (5-5)
- 2 Top player left anthem unfinished (1,3)
- 3 Is copied out like a serial story (8)
- 4 It's capable of moving a peeler to tears (5)
- 5 Public school heavyweight getting cross (9)
- 6 Awfully big elm you reportedly planted in the country (7)
- 7 Foreign money one checks for friars (11)
- 8 Fashion director eats hat and puts a stop to misbehaviour (5,3,4,3)
- 9 They say Richard Murphy's with it, showing total authority (12)
- 10 Having a rash from drug in filthy dwelling (6)
- 11 If it's unionised it requires more men (5,8)
- 12 Abuse making most graduates in country disheartened (7)
- 13 One way to catch fish on both sides of river, still (5)
- 14 Note about new courses offering materials man can exploit (7,9)
- 22 Guy's short dance in restaurant (7)
- 25 Opened a clasp for one's ear (7)
- 26 Relatively low overtime, so to speak, for transferring cargo (10)
- 29 Male batches offered for sale as slaves (6)
- 31 Former single person assessed and exempted (10)
- 32 Crime only children can never commit (10)
- 34 Making crooked, so making firm grip turn shaky (10)
- 37 Early African description of night-fall in Europe (3,4,9)
- 40 Against being a candidate, all the same (15)
- 42 Quarters containing bed for secretary (6)
- 44 Drink that increases heartfelt fondness, as toper might say? (7)
- 45 Condition of ground on part of course causing no offence (5,8)
- 47 Muscular type said to taste mushrooms (7)
- 49 Unable to confer as earnings and state's capital both get cut? Bother! (13)
- 50 Light music from Monteverdi? It could be (12)
- 53 Plant with blight mark seen in superficial position (11)
- 55 Stuck fast on a bridge, they may be gritted when in trouble (5,5)
- 58 In an awkward predicament, not changing one's position (2,3,4)
- 60 Fish caught on one's minute gaff, so to speak (8)
- 62 Valiant characters from part of USSR once (7)
- 64 Done? Then turn ham (7)
- 66 Figure standing right out (6)
- 68 Devise with king one part of political policy (5)
- 71 Peg's closing a porthole (5)

TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday,

April 22, 1996. Entries should be sent to:

Easter Jumbo Crossword, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published on Saturday, April 27, 1996



NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Times Two Easter Holiday Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The answers will be published on Monday

ACROSS

- 1 Was sacrificially meek (4,4,1,4,2,3,9)
- 15 Having made loss (3,2,6)
- 16 Famously (7)
- 17 Appointment: putting in pillar-box (7)
- 18 Radio quiz (5,4)
- 19 Stimulant drug (11)
- 20 Butterfly: 100-eyed giant (Gk. myth) (5)
- 21 Fabulously wealthy man (7)
- 23 From the outside (10)
- 24 Extinct (giant) reptile (8)
- 27 New EU currency name (4)
- 28 Encircling, grasping (10)
- 30 Man of taste, knowledge (11)
- 33 Liable to be confused (10)
- 35 Row of houses (7)
- 36 Dispossess (7)
- 38 Musical drama (5)
- 39 Throat inflammation (10)
- 41 Before official issue, opening (3-7)
- 43 Of mad, RC doctrine, Mass (10)
- 46 Of good character: erect (10)
- 51 Hooded snake (5)
- 51 Admission to Christian life (7)
- 52 Thief (rhym. slang): flake of plant for drink (3,4)
- 54 Of control, supervision (10)
- 56 Less than paid for (in shop) (5,6)
- 57 Access from house to road (6,4)
- 59 Currency of Uruguay (4)
- 61 Typical instance: model (8)
- 63 Unvaried, boring (10)
- 65 Reduce in length (7)
- 67 Striped animal (5)
- 69 Of learning (11)
- 70 Planetary-position annual (4)
- 72 Temp. inactive (7)
- 73 Easily shattered (7)
- 74 Four-year period (11)
- 75 Watch sightless rodent trio's speed (5,5,4,3,3,4,3)

DOWN

- 1 Trunk-drilling bird (10)
- 2 No way! (3,2,4,4)
- 3 Inert (8)
- 4 Swedish currency (5)
- 5 (Mud) covering the foot (5-4)
- 6 Be magnet for (7)
- 7 Napoleon supporter (11)
- 8 Mortally ill (2,3,6,4)
- 9 Water-pressure pump (9,3)
- 10 Obstruction (golf once) (6)
- 11 Perfect tidiness (5-3,5)
- 12 Nazi secret police (7)
- 13 Item: Iceland assembly (5)
- 14 Births/deaths etc recording chief (4,7)
- 22 Breathing-tube (7)
- 25 The New World (7)
- 26 Tireless (10)
- 29 *Tristram Shandy* author (6)
- 31 Beseech (10)
- 32 Long-range planner (10)
- 34 Sir Walter Elliot's only reading (*Persuasion*) (10)
- 37 Worth serious consideration (3,2,2,7,2)
- 40 Subjective, vague: in Monet's style (15)
- 42 False (6)
- 44 Make better (7)
- 45 Moody (13)
- 47 Execution frame (7)
- 49 Southern Scotland working dog (6,7)
- 50 Splinter-group rivalry (12)
- 53 Desolate feeling (11)
- 55 One from Penzance (10)
- 58 Reckless villain (9)
- 60 Begin (pompous) (8)
- 62 Calm (one) down (7)
- 64 At an angle (7)
- 66 KwaZulu-Natal main port (6)
- 68 Less covered (5)
- 71 Afghan city: Earth (anag.) (5)

OUTDOORS

7

Life rises from the ashes

A waste product from coal is providing new farmland

There are few modern structures bigger or more visually offensive than the coal-fired power station. Its giant cooling towers are visible for miles, coughing out discoloured steam. Even a small unit will burn millions of tonnes of coal each year, delivering waste on a grand scale.

Look closer, however, and the picture is not as grim as it seems. The biggest waste product of all, pulverised fuel ash (PFA), the ash that is left after the coal is burnt, is finding new, dynamic uses.

Mounds of PFA left unattended have become home to legions of rare orchids; elsewhere, PFA has been landscaped and returned to farmland; artificial reefs have been sculpted from it, and lobsters, it appears, love it.

Twenty years ago, PFA was considered a plague — a dirty, worthless product. Large power stations such as Blyth, in north Yorkshire, dumped it into the North Sea. Gradually, it became clear that PFA was a malleable substance that could benefit industry. Now, about 25 per cent of the PFA produced is used in subsidiary industries such as the manufacture of cement and building blocks and, more unexpectedly, in skis and false teeth.

Laudable, no doubt, but this still leaves 75 per cent unaccounted for. At Drax power station, near Selby, north Yorkshire, an intelligent way forward has been pioneered.

Drax is Britain's biggest power station and the largest coal-fired unit in Europe. It burns 11 million tonnes of coal each year, producing 1.4 million tonnes of PFA, a sulphurous, greyish-grey powder as fine as icing sugar. When it was commissioned in 1973, it was clear that Drax would create unprecedented amounts of ash: a new approach was needed.

It was decided to landscape a mound on adjoining land. Now, two decades on, the mound, built on a former Ministry of Defence depot, is more of a hill, rising impressively out of flat farmland. A farmer crops and grazes it; last year it won a prestigious development award and is recognised under the European Community Eco Management Scheme. Two days a week it is opened as parkland to the public.

Close-up, it is an extraordinary achievement. The mound is 120ft high, covers 400 acres and is constantly growing. There is a "coal-face" to which, throughout the day, damped-down ash is fed by conveyor belt from the furnace. A hundred feet up, at the edge of the reclaimed farmland, is a viewing platform where the public can watch the reclamation taking place. When the PFA rises to meet this level, it will be given three feet of topsoil,

seeded and returned to parkland.

It is, however, hard to imagine it ever passing for a real hill. Its curves are too severe; from the base, it resembles the steep banks of a reservoir. If this offends the occasional walker, it does not bother the animals, says Ian Fenton, who runs Drax's materials handling department and oversees the mound's construction.

"We've got foxes, stoats, too many rabbits and roe deer. This place forms an oasis of wildlife in a sea of monoculture, the endless farmland." Silver birch, beech, holly and oak have all been planted and are thriving. Capitalising on this, Drax has just opened a nature study centre for local schoolchildren. Three trails

have been devised: a wildflower trail through the sheep meadows; a walk over the mound to see the construction in progress; and a trail through the woods. At its base there are ponds in which the rare great crested newt has made its home.

With generous topsoiling, it is perhaps no surprise that Drax's mound has been such a success. More surprising, however, has been the realisation that PFA, left alone, can provide a fertile environment for diverse wildflowers, especially orchids.

When coal is burnt, all its nutrients are destroyed. PFA, therefore, contains no nitrogen. All other elements, including iron, magnesium, potassium and sodium, however, survive the combustion

process and are more abundant than in ordinary soil. In less than three years, an abandoned PFA mound will abound with wild grasses; its extreme alkalinity makes it perfect for orchids. Each spring, Manchester's Carrington power station is bursting with pink marsh orchids, *Dactylorhiza*, a protected species.

Underwater, too, PFA is proving itself. Scientists at the Department of Oceanography at Southampton University have spent six years studying an artificial reef in Poole Bay. Their findings are optimistic.

In 1989, an artificial reef, made of solid blocks of PFA, was constructed in 12 metres of water. Monitoring has shown that, not only did the blocks prove chemically stable and

therefore of no danger to plant or fish life, but they attracted substantial numbers of lobsters. Dr Antony Jensen, who has headed the research, believes that "we may have stumbled upon something here that will not only be profitable in the long-term, but would bring important socioeconomic benefits".

A waste product from coal-fired power stations could go a long way towards resuscitating our fishing industry. Artificial steel and concrete reefs, he points out, ring Japan and Taiwan and provide habitat for much of the farmed lobster population. If PFA can provide new farmland and habitat for rare orchids, why not a home for lobsters?

EDWARD MARRIOTT



Stuck up the creek without a paddle...

Sailing

At a conservative estimate, I'd say that the explosives and appeals to our Lord were running about neck and neck when I realised what I had done. I had run *Nutracker* aground at about the worst place and time imaginable. When I first felt her easy bounce on the water suddenly change to a pivot as her keel drilled into the east coast mud, I started to panic. Then I realised that we were well and truly stuck, having been going at about four knots under motor, and I felt worse. The echo-sounder read just 3.3ft. I'd always wondered how far off the bottom the transducer was located — now I knew.

Then I remembered it was slack water and that, within a few minutes, the ebb would begin, leaving *Nutracker* — a 1960-vintage, long-keel 35ft-cutter with a 6ft draft — stranded on her beam ends in the mud. Within about two hours she would be lying with her mast pointing horizontally across the creek, with just a trickle of water running under her. To add a little extra spice, this was about to happen in a particularly embarrassing place — in the centre of Maldon in Essex on a Saturday afternoon.

I was stuck virtually outside the back door of the Queen's Head pub, where the sea-going regulars would have a grandstand view of my boat sinking ever deeper into the mire. It had all come about because my girlfriend and I were paying more attention to the charms of the Victorian seafront at Maldon and waving to friends, such as John Yardley, a local shipwright who happened to be on the quayside, than concentrating on what we were doing. Motoring with the last of the flood, we had just passed the old boatyard where *Nutracker* occupied a mud berth for nine months during her refit last year, when we shuddered to a halt. The Blackwater river, which runs up through the town, narrows quickly as you pass the boatyards and the pubs and, as I now know, you have to be very careful when turning before running back down river with the beginning of the ebb.

We had started our journey early in the morning from Bradwell, at the edge of the estuary and, with a light northwesterly and a good three hours of flood tide left, had decided to leave a trip out to sea for another day and explore inland instead.

The easy conditions seemed to lull me into a state of complacency as we sailed past Osea Island and then Heybridge Basin under jib, staysail and main. We then dropped the foresails and turned on the motor for the last twists and turns up to Maldon as high water approached at about 11am.

It all went wrong when I turned slightly to port to give me extra room to begin my turning circle to starboard. Once on the mud, my first reaction was to put the engine in reverse. Already my mind was rushing ahead, wondering if I could get someone out in a boat to pull

her off, but I knew there would be very little time left before the ebb made that impossible. The engine then got some serious abuse as I tugged the revs and paddled the tiller in a vain effort to work her free. By then I was already thinking about how I would try to save her from damage if she did end up on her side. I had recently read that blowing up the rubber dinghy and placing it midships under the topside, where the weight of the boat would be taken, can help. However, there is at least 3ft of mud to sink into first and the dinghy might have ended up being buried.

Techniques for getting off, once stuck, include heeling the boat over to reduce her draft. I thought of flaking — or spreading out — the anchor chain on the port-side deck but there did not seem enough time.

If I had been a little more cool-headed, I would have thought of pumping out the 65-gallon water tank, which lies above the keel, and even rigging the spinnaker pole to swing out at right angles, again over the port or leeward side, so that I could hang heavy weights from it, including the dinghy and my crew. But time was of the essence and I needed to exhaust all immediate remedies.

After a few minutes, I saw the first ripples around the old wooden piles on the quay, signalling the beginning of the ebb. Behind us, in the creek, the boats were turning to face the new tide. Having asked my girlfriend to stand on the transom to try to swing the bow up — all of her 8½ stone making no difference — I decided to try one last option. Instead of reversing the engine I put it into forward gear, knowing that if this failed we would be stranded for sure. The boat edged forward a few inches before I swung the lever back into reverse and she seemed to rock back slightly. I did it again and this time, to my immense relief, she rocked even more and then, slowly, began to move backwards.

We got her out and soon were sailing back down the river, waving again to Mr Yardley, as if nothing had happened. I felt like we had got out of jail. We'd been stuck at least until 11pm that night and, even then, after struggling around in the mud, we may not have been able to get her off and would have needed help.

The chances are that she might have escaped serious damage as she sank into the mud, but it would definitely not have improved an old wooden yacht for her to have taken all her weight on one side for 12 hours.

Maldon had been a bit like one of those beautiful tropical plants which draw their insect victims to them with their bright colours and attractive scent, only to poison the little creatures once they come within range.

Next time I will be on my guard as I visit Maldon for some sightseeing at high water.

EDWARD GORMAN

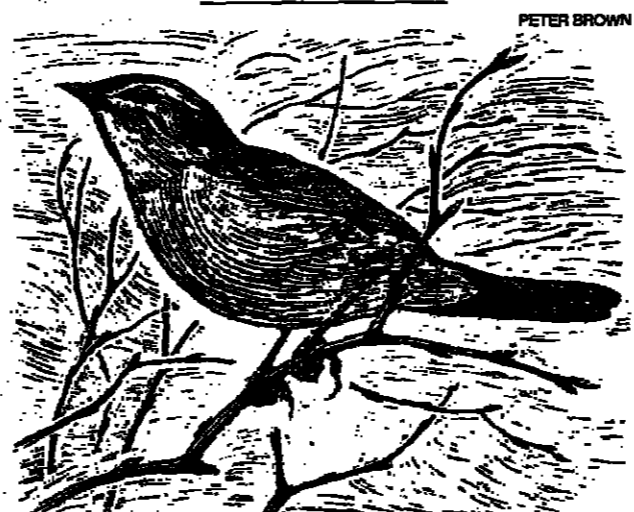


The Nutracker, back in deep water after her embarrassing brush with a mud bank

Busy feathering their nests

Feather report

PETER BROWN



Willow warblers build their domed nests on the ground.

THIS weekend the willow warblers should be flooding into Britain. For the past month or so they have been making their way from Africa through Europe, and they will go back to the birch wood or spinney where they nested last year, or where they were born. The rippling cadences of their song will fill the air.

Later this month, they will start building their neat, domed nests on the ground, under the edge of a bramble bush, or tucked into some thick grass. The shell of the nest will be made of dried grass stems, and it will be lined with feathers.

Some years ago, I counted the number of feathers in one of these nests. The nest had been deserted — a clutch of cold eggs remained in it for six days, and on the seventh I saw an ant crawling over them; so I took the nest out to examine it.

There were five pale eggs, spotted and mottled with crimson. The lining of the nest consisted of a few silky insect cocoons, some scraps of fine grass and 240 feathers.

Where do so many feathers come from? That is a question I have never seen satisfactorily addressed. In general, birds moult in the autumn, not in the spring, so few of these can be moulted feathers.

My view is that a great many of them come from

woodpeckers. When woodpeckers fly out of a bush or tree, they clatter wildly through the branches to alarm any predators, and practically every time they lose a few feathers.

Another source must be ground birds such as pheasants, some of whose smaller feathers get knocked out as they brush through the bracken. No doubt dead birds also provide many nest-linings.

Small garden birds generally have about 1,500 feathers on their body. Swans can have up

to 25,000, and one usually sees a good few of them floating about on the water wherever there are swans swimming.

Birds sport four kinds of feather. There are flight feathers and body-feathers, which are locked together into an unbroken web by thousands of tiny hooks and grooves on their edges. Beneath these are found the soft down feathers — the ones most easily shed — and some tiny thread-like feathers called filoplumes, which seem to convey messages to the bird and tell it

when its feathers are dishevelled and need preening.

Some of the feathers among the down crumble to produce what is called powder-down — a waxy powder which spreads through the surface feathers and helps to waterproof them. Sometimes when a bird crashes into a window-pane it leaves a ghostly outline of itself on the glass. This is where the powder-down has been shaken out of it by the impact.

Birds that collect feathers for their nests want them for one of the reasons why they grew on their first owner, namely, that they provide marvellous insulation — this time for the eggs.

Willow warblers are not the only common species in search of them. Their cousins, the chiffchaffs, need them; many finches collect them; long-tailed tits find up to 2,000 for their cosy nests. House martins catch them in the air. In fact, if you want to see a bird in the spring, first find a feather — and a sharp-eyed bird will surely come to take it away.

DERWENT MAY

What's about birds — watch for the first returning swallows. Twitchees — purple heron at Pevensy Levels in East Sussex; white-bellied diver still on the Blyth estuary in Northumberland. Details from Birdline, 0891 702222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

Breathing Space.

(Don't take it for granted)



We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For 60 years, THE RAMBLERS' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside.

Go for a walk. Take a breather from our crowded world. Think about the future; invest in THE RAMBLERS.

Join us.

A modest subscription brings you — FREE — the essential Yearbook, full of outdoor information (about 300 pages, over 2300 places to stay, £4.99 in bookshops); the quarterly magazine, *Rambling Today*; membership of one of our 400 local groups. Many outdoor equipment shops offer discounts.

The Ramblers

Working for walkers

1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX. Tel: 0171 582 6878

TM47

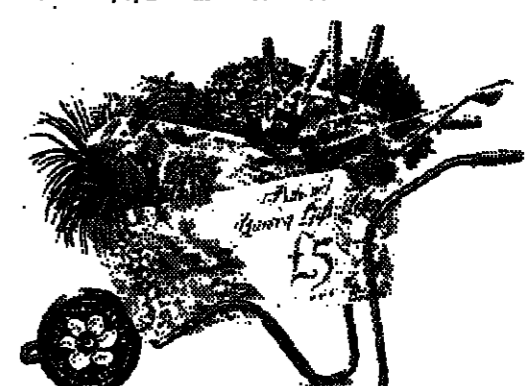
Spring a lovely surprise.

Surprise them this Easter with National Garden Gift Tokens. Imagine how their eyes will light up, thinking about all the lovely things they'll be able to buy for themselves.

These colourful tokens come in a range of values and are so easy to post. They can be bought and exchanged at most Garden Centres, Garden Shops and Nurseries right across the UK.

NATIONAL GARDEN GIFT TOKENS

Issued only by members of the Horticultural Trades Association.



The gift that grows

Grant

M24 10 infra.
country home
turning to quiet
r camp, steady, 4 d/1
H.S. pool. Lovely
to be furnished to
dards. Ample
Amenities Welcom
tered Surveylors 01

PROPERTY WANTED

A. NATIONAL relocations urgently needed for buyers. **Info 018**

BISHOPS INTERNSHIP
PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
Sell or purchase property considered to be the best search on your behalf. nationwide. We will investigate and will on property in your area will serve. Please call for further information. Free national helpline phone **(TUG 01932)** Fax **(TUG 01832 270)**

[illegible][illegible]

bing per week. Bishop's
donal Property 01832

SLOANE SQUARE Vn
Int dec that suit single
festual 01856w +
cleaning etc 0171 730

STUNNING apt for cor
Grosvenor Sq. Ideal
Int 02006pw 0171 29

W1 Beautiful 3 bed 2 b
Nest in Suffolk road
part 055070 0171 44


WEST KEN 1 bed set
f/turn, avail now
Harrow 0171 706 787

W1 Harley St. Furn 2
shwr, rms 1 bath, rec
0360pw 0171 224 05

COUNTRY RENT

MAGNIFICENT Lge 7 be
Pole in Suffolk wood
bathrs, mtd indoor pool
clack/party room, gar
etc. long let. 01366

Real Property Consultants





Opportunity in Aberystwyth, W.
Fully let with good income.
Fully let on Assured Shortbreak
tenancies.

For a contact the selling agent
or Fax **01832-375159**

AN APPLICATION

RES



A c
O
on the
ground
variet

Price
Es

8 Holland St
Freephone 0800
English
Schroff co

two outstanding vine
TOWN FARM, GREAT
TON FARM, CERNE A



BEEC
CLASSIC

NE: 01491 834975 •

[illegible]

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

HS
vi

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

HOW TO APPLY

10

on the
ground
varies

Price
£

8 Holland St
Freephone 0800

English

hcroft co
hcroft are redeveloping
two outstanding vi
TOWN FARM, GREAT
TON FARM, CERNÉ



BEEC
CLASSIC

NE: 61491 834975 •

[illegible]

6

PROPERTY

11

Granting creature comforts

Birds, trees and insects have rights these days — and builders can be refused planning permission for ignoring them

The breeding habits of great crested newts were once of little interest to planners and builders — but times have changed. Environmental concerns are now a vital consideration — and restrictions no longer stop at trees.

As well as the primary considerations of location, ground conditions, access and the provision of mains services, builders have to take environmental issues into account otherwise planning permission will be refused.

If environmental factors are considered when identifying land for development, even if everything else is favourable, the decision may be taken not to pursue the site," says John Kirkham, planning manager of Bryant Homes.

Great crested newts are a good example. When Bryant Homes decided to develop a site it had owned for many years in Solihull, West Midlands, builders discovered a colony of newts in ponds on the site.

In the advice of an ecologist, a joint working party from the builders and local authority worked out a plan to create a new habitat for the protected species a few miles away, without which building work could not have gone ahead.

The change in attitude started to affect builders in the late 1970s. Legislation gathered momentum throughout the 1980s, creating a list of "un-touchables", including trees, hedges, wild flowers, ponds and birding and nesting grounds for insects, birds and mammals.

Challenges for breaking the law were established under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the maximum fine for the wilful damage of a tree subject to a preservation order is £20,000. Some local authorities have taken offenders to court. In December 1995, Woolley Construction of Flockton, Huddersfield, was fined £25,000 for destroying two 100-



A preserved avenue of maple trees creates a mature landscape for new houses in Bingley, West Yorkshire

year-old sycamores, made the subject of protection orders by Kirklees Council in 1989 when the builders first applied for planning permission.

In 1994, Bryant Homes started to develop a five-acre site at Bingley, West Yorkshire, which was divided diagonally by an avenue of mature maple trees subject to preservation orders, and included an adjoining

two acres of woodland. As well as preserving the maples, planners insisted that the woodland of ash, oak and sycamore with birch and holly was surveyed, and that necessary tree surgery be carried out. The builders consulted arboriculturists to survey the trees, most around 50 years old, and took their advice on the felling of four, leaving piles of chopped wood

at random to create wildlife and wild-flower habitats. "We knew from experience elsewhere that the Woodland Trust charity is interested in maintaining woodlands and we offered ownership of it to them at no cost," says Bryant's John Kirkham.

Bryant Homes gave the Trust £35,000, a sum it hopes will generate enough income to maintain the wood for ten years. Nick Allison, woodland officer for the Trust in the North East, says: "There was scope for everyone to benefit from this deal. The developer, who did not want to retain the long-term management of the wood in an area it would no longer be associated with, passed the liability to us."

"We can preserve the wood for its habitat and as a local amenity. And we can persuade local people to help us to look after it."

At least ten of the 32 four-bedroom, detached homes that have been built on the site — priced around £155,000 — overlook the wood. The avenue of maples creates a mature landscape within the estate.

Wragley Homes, a small building company in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, is building 22 three- and four-bedroom, semi-detached homes

and townhouses, priced between £79,950 and £89,950, on a former mill site near a river. The area is home to a duck population and is the nesting site for herons and kingfishers.

Builders had to comply with the National Rivers Authority ruling that no debris should pollute Elphinstone Brook at Mytholmroyd, near Halifax, while buildings were being demolished or foundations laid.

Most of the mature trees on the three-and-a-half acre site were subject to preservation orders (metal tags on the trunk identify them by number) and planning permission was subject to almost half an acre of overgrown land being retained as a wildlife habitat.

Even when legally removing "a few wispy sycamores which had self-seeded", local people rang the planners to complain.

A consortium development by builders Westbury, Beazer and Ideal Homes of around 3,000 homes — ranging from one-bedroom flats at £40,000 to five-bedroom executive detached homes at £150,000 — at Locking Castle, Weston-Super-Mare, was delayed by the fish and plant life in two disused, water-filled pits.

The wildlife in and around one pit, which was a nesting ground for swans and home to several types of fish and rushes, had to be transferred to a temporary habitat a mile away. When builders had finished work on the pit, creating a new pond which needed around nine months to stabilise, the creatures and plants were successfully returned. Builders spent £82,000 on the pond and £20,000 on landscaping and rehabilitating the habitat.

At the second pond, an ecological survey, which cost the builders £12,000, revealed the presence of great crested newts and they obtained a licence from English Nature to relocate them.

Chris Pratt, design and technical manager for Ideal Homes South West Ltd, says: "Gone are the days when builders moved on to a site with their machines and began to dig foundations."

"Now we must be aware of all kinds of considerations from the archaeological to the ecological. We cannot save everything but we try to save as much as we can. We don't always get it right, but we're trying."

LYNNE GREENWOOD

FOR SALE

COUNTRY COTTAGES



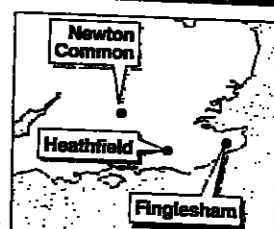
KENT Thatch Cottage, Marley Lane, Finglesham, Near Sandwich. Grade II listed thatched cottage in a third of an acre on the edge of a peaceful village four miles from the coast. Four bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, double reception room, study, kitchen, and cloakroom. About £125,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01227 451123)



BERKSHIRE Well Cottage, Newton Common. Two bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, study, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, and well stocked garden. About £175,000 (John D. Wood, 01835 523225)



EAST SUSSEX Gun Hill Cottage, near Heathfield. Country cottage in a third of an acre between Chiddingfold and Horam. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room, kitchen, breakfast/dining room. About £150,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01273 475411)



CHERYL TAYLOR

RHS gardening video offer

The Times, in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, offers you the opportunity to save £2 off any of the RHS videos listed below right. Normally these videos, compiled by horticultural experts and superbly filmed, cost £4.99 through mail order.

Readers also have the opportunity to buy a selection of RHS videos, featured right, for £12.99 each, a saving of £2 on the normal mail order price. The RHS videos on offer include the "Wisley Through the Seasons" series, which has now sold out any other gardening title in the UK. Plus the new RHS Practical Guides series, a collection of instructional videos on topics of gardening interest as diverse as designing and creating a small garden to the growing of fruit and vegetables.

The RHS's videos include *Soft Fruit Growing*, *Making a Small Garden*, *Small Greenhouse and Conservatory*, *Top Fruit Growing* and the *Wisley Through the Seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter*.

If you buy two titles at £12.99 you will be sent a complimentary video of last year's stunning Chelsea Flower Show, *Chelsea 95*.

As privileged Times readers, you can also get one of the following three titles for only £1.98 (plus four tokens) to cover the cost of postage and handling. Orders should be received by April 12, 1996.

CONTAINER GROWING

Offers practical advice on planting your own container, and provides a wealth of ideas for the successful growing of herbs, fruit and vegetables to add interest and colour to patios, porches and courtyards. It also explores the advantages of using indoor and outdoor containers such as pots, baskets, tubs and window boxes.

VEGETABLE GROWING

Provides advice on how to grow many kinds of vegetables in the garden or allotment. The video is packed with useful information and features both commonly grown vegetables such as potatoes, carrots and the many types of beans, as well as more unusual crops including asparagus.

WISLEY THROUGH THE SEASON: SUMMER

The second in a series of four seasonal videos, Summer, sees Wisley's trials field ablaze with sweet peas and delphiniums, while the Rose Garden and the Broadwalk are at their best. Designed to be both informative and inspirational, the video brings the beauty of Wisley to life in your own home.

HOW TO APPLY

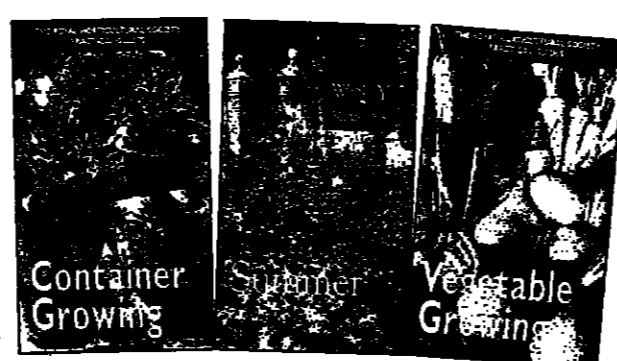
Select any one of the three videos featured above. Send four different numbered garden video tokens plus £1.98 to cover postage and packaging with the coupon right to: The Times RHS Video Offer, P.O. Box 17, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 5YG. Orders should arrive no later than April 12, 1996. To order any of the videos at £12.99, complete the coupon right or call the credit card order line on 01752 345 424 between 9am and 6pm on weekdays (except Easter Monday). Readers who order two or more copies of any video will also be sent a copy of the Chelsea 95 video free of charge.

THE TIMES

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDEN VIDEO

TOKEN 6



Mr/Ms/Ms. Initials Surname

Address

Postcode

I enclose four tokens plus £1.98 for the following video, please tick box (only one video per household) Guide to Container Growing ☐ Wisley Through the Seasons: Summer ☐ Vegetable Growing ☐ and/or send me the following @ £12.99 each including p&h.

(qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Summer @ £12.99 each

(qty) Guide to Container Growing @ £12.99 each

(qty) Vegetable Growing @ £12.99 each

(qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Spring @ £12.99 each

(qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Autumn @ £12.99 each

(qty) Wisley Through the Seasons: Winter @ £12.99 each

(qty) Making a Small Garden @ £12.99 each

(qty) Soft Fruit Growing @ £12.99 each

(qty) Top Fruit Growing @ £12.99 each

(qty) Small Greenhouse and Conservatory @ £12.99 each

(qty) Chelsea '95 @ £12.99 each

I enclose a cheque made payable to: RHS Video Offer.

Cheque value £ Cheque number

Write your name and address on the back of your cheque. Send this form to RHS Video Offer (The Times), P.O. Box 17, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 5YG. Allow 28 days for delivery.

Stocks are limited and offer is subject to availability. Orders for the complimentary video must be received by April 12, 1996.

Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers from companies carefully selected by The Times.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CREDIT-CARD HOTLINE FOR VIDEO ORDERS OF £12.99 AND OVER — 9AM-6PM SATURDAY
01752 345 424

PROPERTY

BERKSHIRE

WARFIELD NEAR BRACKNELL
4 bed homes from £144,950 5 bed home price £205,000
TEL (01344) 867878

WEST SUSSEX

CRAWLEY
Last 4 bed home price £124,950
TEL (01293) 515444

IFOLD NEAR CRANLEIGH
5 bed homes from £232,000 TEL (01483) 268822

CLICKFIELD
4 bed homes from £149,950 TEL (01444) 416657

BOXGROVE CHICHESTER
3, 4 & 5 bed homes from £94,950
- £184,950 TEL (01252) 822086

HAMPSHIRE
ZEBON COSE FLEET
3 & 4 bed homes from
- £161,950 - £142,500 TEL (01252) 812620

SURREY
WOKING
2, 3 & 4 bed homes from £76,950 - £167,500
TEL (01483) 799995

LONDON
LONDON TULSE HILL SE24
3 bed terrace homes from £92,950
TEL (0181) 761 1737

KENT
SEVENOAKS
2 & 3 bed homes from £114,950 - £182,950
TEL (01732) 741212

DORSET
BOURNEMOUTH
2 bed apts from £72,950 TEL (01202) 767633

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
BERKSHIRE BRADFIELD PARK BRADFIELD
3 & 4 bed homes. TEL (01306) 730822

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS
BARCOMBE PARK PAIGNTON DEVON
PARAGON HEIGHTS PLYMPTON DEVON
MOORVIEW ALLER PARK NEWTON ABBOTT DEVON
EMPRESS MEWS DOUGLAS ISLE OF MAN
WINDSOR HEIGHTS ONCHAN ISLE OF MAN
ALDEAMENTO DA LAGOA DE OBIDOS LISBON PORTUGAL
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TEL ENSIGN HOMES
ON 01803 525 445 OR FREEPHONE 0900 730 722

HERTFORDSHIRE

HARPENDEN
2 & 3 bed homes. Prices from £86,950
TEL (01582) 712219

REDBOURN
3 & 4 bed homes from £114,500
TEL (01727) 844044

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
MILTON KEYNES
4 bed homes, 3 bed bungalows from
£95,000 - £141,950 TEL (01908) 679168

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NORTHAMPTON
3 & 4 bed homes from £62,950 - £114,950
TEL (01604) 259410

NORTHAMPTON
3 & 4 bed homes from £189,000
TEL (01604) 675773

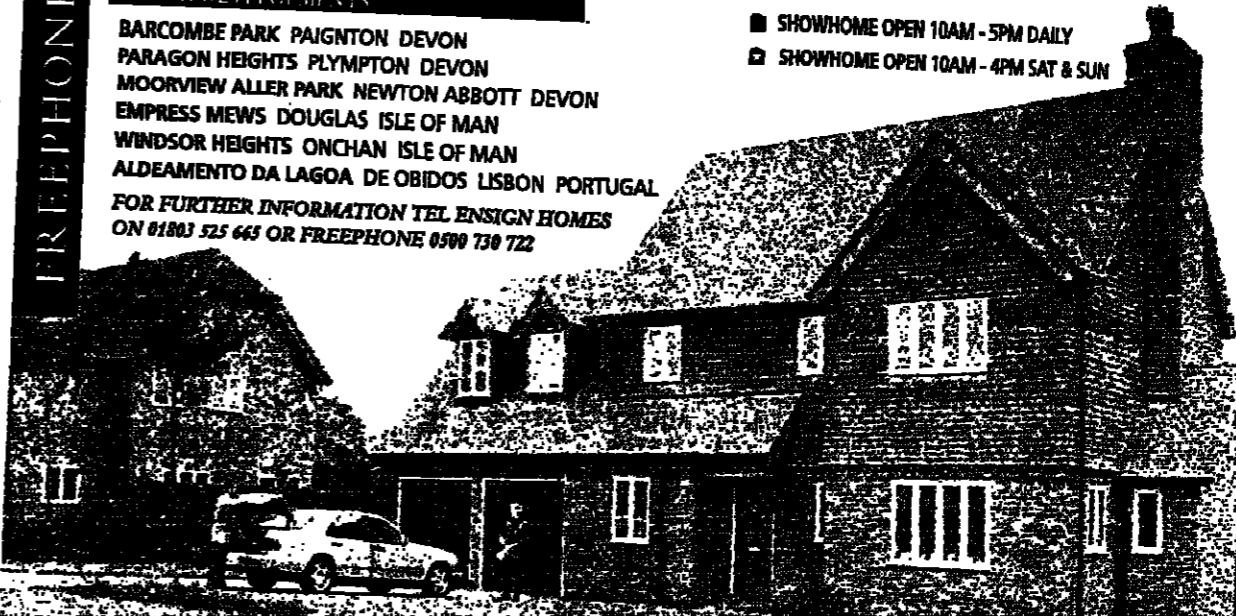
OXFORDSHIRE
OXFORD
1 & 2 bed apts, 2, 3 & 4 bed homes
from £55,995 TEL (01865) 395473

BEDFORDSHIRE
BARTON LE CLAY
4 bed homes from £136,000
TEL (01582) 883217

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
BEDS WESTONING
3 & 4 bed homes
TEL (01727) 844044

FREEPHONE SALES 0500 730 733

SHOWHOME OPEN 10AM - 5PM DAILY
SHOWHOME OPEN 10AM - 4PM SAT & SUN



Martin Grant Homes Ltd, Queens House
40 Regent, Plymouth, Devon PL1 2EP
TEL 01752 345 424

Martin Grant Homes Ltd, Queens House
40 Regent, Plymouth, Devon PL1 2EP
TEL 01752 345 424

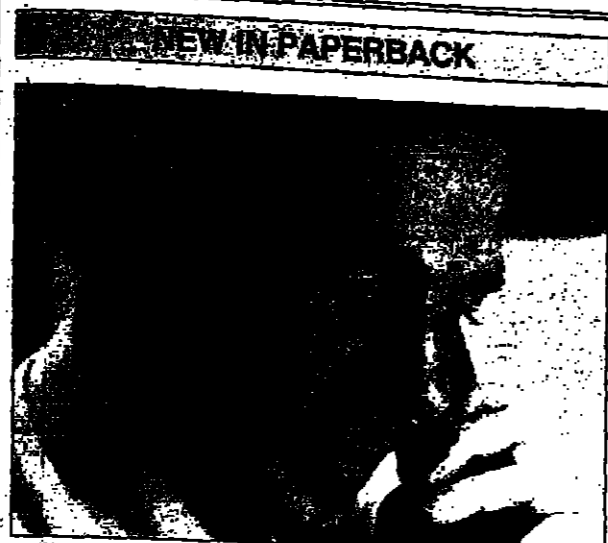
PENNY PERICK

BOOKS

13

We are vastly amused

Andrew Roberts relishes the true story of Victoria and Albert



Jenkins: a disturbing account of Thatcher's politics

■ ACCOUNTABLE TO NONE
The Tory Nationalisation of Britain
By Simon Jenkins
Penguin, £7.99

SIMON JENKINS'S deceptively even-tempered study of Thatcherism begins with the new Tory leader fishing in her handbag for a copy of Hayek's *The Constitution of Liberty* to bang on the table. It ends with a stark warning about the consequences of the British electorate's constitutional inertia. In between, Jenkins gives a disturbing account of Thatcher's politics, testing the Tories' initial promise in 1979 to reduce the power and scope of the state against their subsequent record in the "great domains" of public administration.

The portrait that emerges is of a second-rate, philistine imperialism, gripped by a defensive desire to impose at all costs government will upon diversity. Military or colonial-administrative analogies abound (the reader sympathises with the local councillor who complains of virtual "artillery bombardment" to suppress local autonomy) but it is what Will Hutton has called the State's "chronic reluctance to protect the public interest" that should really cause offense. Nevertheless, says Jenkins, if we end the century feeling ill-served by agents of central government it will be partly our own fault, as citizens for not protecting both our liberties and our obligations with a written constitution.



■ THE PRINCE OF WEST END AVENUE
By Alan Isler
Vintage, £5.99

THE YEAR is 1978, and our story is set in New York's Emma Lazarus home, resting place for retired Jewish gentilefolk. A hotbed of clashing egos, the in-house production of *Hamlet* is fraught with vitriolic personal politics, and against this backdrop narrator Otto Korner, cast as the Ghost and then Hamlet, ponders his own existence. At the Emma Lazarus there is also *amour*, ranging from the sad disjunction between the libidos of elderly women and men, to Korner's own unexpected passion: at 83, he has fallen for physiotherapist Mandy Dattner. Isler's prose is witty and poignant and he has made Korner, freighted with secrets, an aptly tortured Prince.

■ RIDING THE RAP
By Elmore Leonard
Penguin, £4.99

WITH John Travolta starring in the film version of *Get Shorty*, these are heady days for Elmore Leonard. Although essentially a genre writer, his novels are distinguished by their radiant, exact dialogue and sharp characterisation. This latest thriller is about a small-time crook, Chip Ganz, and his quest to kidnap a bookie with Mafia links. His sidekick — a pragmatic Latino and a fast-talking black guy — recall the hitmen in *Pulp Fiction*; hardly surprising, since Tarantino has said that Leonard helped him to "find his style".



■ DIANA
The Goddess Who Hunts Alone
By Carlos Fuentes
Bloomsbury, £5.99

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, 1969, Carlos Fuentes embarked on a passionate affair with the American actress Jean Seberg. A quarter of a century later, after Seberg's grisly, lonely death in a Paris backstreet, Fuentes recreates their love in this hauntingly erotic novel. The story of their relationship is both an elegy to Seberg and to the wild, optimistic times in which they met; Fuentes's prose, even at its most self-indulgent, shines with an evocative sensual power. Ultimately, this honest, if solipsistic, testament of youth by an aged Don Juan is desperately poignant.

■ FISHER'S FACE
By Jan Morris
Penguin, £7.50

EDWARD VII, who loved Jack Fisher, once said that he had been all round the world but had never really been in it. There was indeed something unworldly about the punchy little admiral who dragged the Royal Navy out of the age of sail and into the 20th century. Jan Morris has been haunted by Fisher since the 1940s and this book is a wonderful portrait of her pin-up and of the spacious and colourful era when Britannia ruled the waves. Even in old age he never lost his gusto: 70 years after his death it is still infectious.

■ THE SMELL OF APPLES
By Mark Behr
Abacus, £5.99

IN THIS masterly first novel Behr writes in the voice of Marmus, an innocently observant 11-year-old Afrikaner boy whose glamorous, dotting parents are pillars of 1970s Capetown society. During an idyllic childhood Marmus has unquestioningly absorbed his parents' belief in the Afrikaners' divine right to rule South Africa. But he wonders why no one has been punished for torturing a coloured boy and why his aunt has been labelled a Communist. A disturbing story which subtly lays bare the twisted logic of apartheid.

■ MALCOLM BRADBURY

Dangerous Pilgrimages

■ DANGEROUS PILGRIMAGES
Trans-Atlantic Mythologies and the Novel
By Malcolm Bradbury
Penguin, £8.99

PROFESSOR BRADBURY explores realms of the imagination, American and European. He contemplates the Renaissance "discoverers" depicting a newfound Eden. Grand Tour visions of the Old World and contemporary "frequent flyers" like Martin Amis, investigating the traffic of fancies across the ocean. He is particularly illuminating in his sociopolitical sweep while homing in on authors of specific interest: Dickens's revenge on the United States with *Martin Chuzzlewit*; James and Hawthorne; Fitzgerald in jazz age Paris.

Alison Burns, Glyn Brown, Hazel Leslie, Nicki Household, Jason Cowley, Lucy Leithbridge, Kate Bassett

WITH the BBC about to sully yet further the name of revisionist history with its documentary accusing Queen Victoria of being John Brown's "lover", the timing of this charming, intelligent, sane book could not be better. Richard Hough has produced a short, splendidly opinionated and elegantly written history of one of the few genuine love affairs in the history of the British monarchy.

"There is no-one to call me



Albert sketched by Victoria

Victoria! the queen cried in her agony of grief when Albert succumbed to typhoid on December 14, 1861. Hough manages to recreate the tragedy in a way that is both moving and scrupulously accurate.

He hints that there may even be something to Victoria's famous suspicion that the Prince of Wales's dissipation may have been partly responsible for his father's death. When he heard that the prince had slept with the actress Nellie Clifden, Albert, already in bad health, went up

■ VICTORIA & ALBERT
By Richard Hough
Richard Cohen, £20

to Cambridge and insisted on taking a walk around the city with his son, lecturing him on his "depraved... vice and debauchery". The cold he caught on that freezing November day aggravated his illness and eventually killed him.

Hough's earlier works include impressive studies of the marriages of Winston Churchill and King Edward VII. He has a natural feel for describing relationships and no fear of expressing forthright opinions. He dismisses the John Brown conjecture with contempt, showing how it originated in obscene Parisian jokes and propaganda.

Hough's hard work in the royal archives in the Round Tower of Windsor Castle, has enabled him to present Albert as a far more engaging figure than the boring, Teutonic dogooder of popular myth. The story of the prince's second greatest achievement, the Great Exhibition, is told with a fine attention to detail. The prince's greatest achievement, preventing Palmerston from getting Britain into a war with America in 1861, is also gripping stuff.

The profit from the Great Exhibition is still subsidising students to study the arts and sciences. The Crystal Palace itself was moved to Sydenham, where it spectacularly burnt down on the night of November 3, 1936. One of the spectators, from far away as the South Downs, was the young Hough.

Adams meets Paisley

HEINEMANN is to co-publish *Before the Dawn*, the controversial memoirs of Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams. It will partner Brandon Books of Dingle, Co Kerry, which commissioned the book a couple of years ago and which has published short stories and non-fiction by Adams. But lest anyone should accuse it of republican bias, the same month it will also publish *Persecuting Zeal*, an even-handed theological appraisal of the Rev Ian Paisley.

● AS Britain's Agriculture Minister gets hanged, drawn and quartered in Brussels, *Gollancz* is rushing through a book that advocates an animal Bill of Rights to be incorporated into the European Convention. But the Price of Meat by Danny Pennman, commissioned before the present crisis, also examines such issues as molecular pharmacology and argues that it is possible for BSE and other viruses to cross the species barrier.

● BOOKER chairman Carmen Calli continues to drop veiled hints about the sort of books that might not make this year's shortlist. "On the whole, people should not write novels," she declared recently. "Novelists should write novels." Fortunately, last year's chairman, outgoing Tory MP George Walden, has not yet found a publisher for his novel in which the population succumbs to dwarfism. This despite his agent describing it as "a brilliant satire".

● RICHARD FORD'S *Independence Day* and *Claire Messud's When the World was Steady* have been nominated for the \$15,000 1996 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction by American writers. The other nominees are *Madison Smartt Bell* (All Souls Rising), *William H. Gass* (The Tunnel) and *A.J. Verdelle* (The Good Negro).

● MANUSCRIPTS are invited for the £3,000 1996 Saga Prize for black British-born novelists, funded by the travel group. The winning novel will be published by Virago. Inquiries to Saga Prize, Saga Building, Middleborough Square, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1AZ.

An exploration of the unspoiled corners of our once green and pleasant land

Piety and grace: the Savage monument at Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, from *England — Travels through an Unwrecked Landscape* by Candida Lycett Green, with photographs by Bill Burlington (Pavilion, £16.99)

Faith seeks hope and charity

FAITH FOX arrives in the world to a furor. Her bouncy, shiny haired, thoroughly good sort of a mother, Molly, dies giving birth to her, and nobody in sunny, affluent Surrey can quite believe it. This reminder of our mortality and of the fates' penchant for springing surprises provides the keynote to a novel spiked with paradox.

Holly's demise throws her numerous friends and family, reeling from the extinction of her energy and vigour, into a different gear. Thomasina, Holly's mother, refuses to acknowledge Faith and disappears off to Egypt with a dashing colonel. Exhausted

■ FAITH FOX
By Jane Gardam
Sinclair Stevenson, £15.99

and bewildered, Andrew, the widower, struggles to balance baby with his job as a hospital doctor and, in the end, has to acknowledge defeat.

Packing Faith into the car, he heads for Yorkshire where he hopes to hand his daughter over to his brother Jack. Twenty years older than Andrew, quasi saint and ascetic, Jack runs an unheated, chaotic religious foundation on the moors and is married to Jocasta, who is Andrew's former lover. He is also stepfather to her dyslexic troubled

son, Philip. Meanwhile, only a few miles away, Dolly and Toots, the paternal grandparents incapacitated by age and illness, wait patiently for the call to help — which never arrives.

Drilling through the layers of our culture and geography to expose clashing colours and texture, the novel is built up on contrast — a celibate marriage, a mad old woman's sex appeal, a so-called Christian community sheltering Tibetan refugees — underpinned by the suggestion of anarchy lurking just around the corner. Hurdled on journeys from south to north, north to south, the baby tossed like a parcel

from pillar to post, the reader is left breathless and braced against disaster, and yet remains curiously reassured by the moral imperative that Jack lays upon himself: "to put things right".

With its strong whiffs of death, religion and knock-about farce, *Faith Fox* is funny and admirable but not likeable, being too robust for something as mild as affection. Twice winner of the Whitbread Award, Jane Gardam writes with a dark and buoyant energy which continually challenges and provokes.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

In England's sari state

■ ANITA AND ME
By Meera Syal
Flamingo, £9.99

Her ambition in life is to look cool and be worthy of the attention of Anita Rutter, an older and sassier neighbour who wears mini-skirts and make-up. The result is a well-observed comedy about the clash of two cultures — Indian respectability versus Western liberalism. In Meena's case, this clash translates into "being nice to Pinky and Baby" versus "being in with Anita".

Apart from the scrapes that our mischievous heroine gets into, and the shame they heap upon her family, the antics of her neighbours in their small mining village provide the main entertainment. Syal has put her comic talents to good use, with delightful descriptions of fat, cackling "utterly fire-resistant Aunties" cooking *chapatis* over naked gas rings. The prose is sometimes stumbling and inelegant but always honest. Sometimes it is a little more vulgar than necessary, which cheapens its poignancy.

ANJANA AHUJA

Flirting with operatic disaster

■ A SCHOOL FOR LOVERS
By Jill Paton Walsh
Black Swan, £6.99

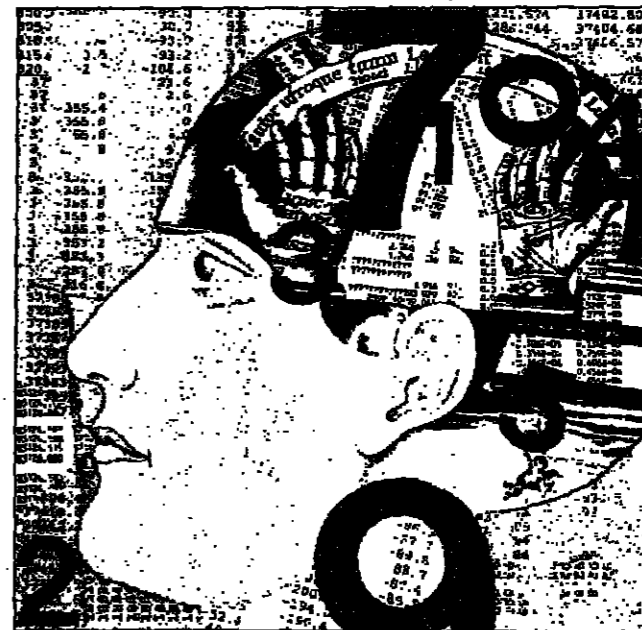
IT IS generally agreed that the best thing about *Così fan tutte* is Mozart's music. Taken out of its operatic context, da Ponte's libretto is rather ridiculous, with its misogynistic notion that "all women are the same" and heavy dependence on disguise. Nevertheless, it is the plot which Jill Paton Walsh has bravely chosen to revise. In *A School for Lovers*, first published in 1989, she takes the story out of historic Naples and plunks it down in present-day Oxford.

In *Così fan tutte*, two young men are goaded by an older philosopher, Don Alfonso, to test the love of their two, trusted fiancées. Disguised but sure, they each set out to woo the other's betrothed. In this novel, a sinister, homosexual muscology don, Alfie, is furious when two of his acolytes come back from the vacation engaged. He bets the boys, Ferdie and William, that their fiancées are as fickle as all women: they could just as easily fall for the other. Keen for the money and convinced of their victory, they accept.

It is from this point that the novel's plot begins to stumble over its conceit. The ripe conditions needed for Alfie to carry out his plan are unlikely, if not ludicrous: he has access to an enormous and dilapidated stately home; he, anonymously, employs both girls there; though good friends, the girls could not recognise each other's boyfriend. And although all four lovers are working there together, the engaged couples never meet. Such plot devices, though they might have gone down all right with an 18th-century audience, are bound to be a bit of a risk with the 20th-century reader. And there are times

TOWARD A SCIENCE OF CONSCIOUSNESS 1996

"TUCSON 2" APRIL 8-13 1996, TUCSON



Listen in to a conference 3,000 miles away

From Monday April 8, The Times Higher Education Supplement will be providing electronic www-based coverage of Tucson 2, the world's first Internet conference with sound. This will include full abstracts and links to presented papers as well as coverage of the debate as it unfolds. Details will be posted on The Times Higher Education Supplement THESIS: <http://thesis.newsint.co.uk>, which also provides a weekly summary of the paper's editorial content.

THE TIMES
HIGHER
EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

THAMES VALLEY
ANTIQUA DEALERS
ASSOCIATION

ETON ANTIQUES FAIR 1996
School Hall, Eton College, Windsor

Thursday 11 April 1996
2.00pm-6.30pm
Friday 12 April 1996
11.00am-7.00pm
Saturday 13 April 1996
11.00am-6.00pm
Sunday 14 April 1996
11.00am-5.00pm

Licensed restaurant - AA
Signposted - Ample Free Parking
Telephone - 01655 341 639+

NEW ON CD: Mozart taken on an un-Viennese whirl; first entrant in the Arnold cycle race; Nat King Cole mining; another "new Oasis"

OPERA

John Higgins

■ MOZART
Die Zauberflöte
Mannion/Dessay/Blochwitz/
Scharinger/Hagen/Les Arts
Florissants/Christie
Erato 0630-12705-2
(2 CDs)***

WILLIAM CHRISTIE had conducted no Mozart opera since his student days before he took on *The Magic Flute* at Aix. It turned out to be the hit of the 1994 festival and last year's as well and has gone straight onto disc with no changes of cast.

Christie brought his own band, Les Arts Florissants, numbering about 50 and using period instruments. They never sound aggressive, but Christie has the ability to make his orchestra sound bigger than it actually is, notably in part of the overture and in the March of Sarastro's priests, which opens Act II. Christie is quoted as promising a "different Flute", by which he meant one that was not hidebound by heavy Viennese tradition. And he has kept to his word: the long, silvery cadenza for the Three Ladies right at the start of the opera sums up the Christie approach. And most agreeable it is too. All is brisk, precise and very good-humoured.

Robert Carsen's production, which used every inch of Aix's Théâtre de l'Archêve, took a similarly benign view of Mozart. There are no real baddies in *The Flute* and the Queen of the Night can sit down at the same table as Sarastro. At the end the singers throw off their costumes implying that the whole world — maybe even the audience — can be part of Sarastro's elect.

This bonhomous view of humanity flows over into the recording, which draws almost entirely on youngish performers. Christie makes some of his instruments behave like soloists and some of his singers sound like instruments. In the exquisite *Bei Männern*, Pamina (Rosa

resonances of Beethoven's and Mahler's last completed symphonies — followed a period of illness and severe depression. Arnold later described himself as having "been through hell". The music is spare in the extreme: the second movement consists largely of rather desolate duetting between pairs of instruments, and although the third movement initially returns to more familiar Arnold territory (a boisterous Scherzo), its middle section is again pared down to bare essentials. The finale has Mahlerian tendencies but is never as lush: the composer's self-confessed "complete sur-



Arnold: deliberately bleak

render to despair" is susceptible to no grand Romantic gestures.

Complete Arnold cycles are also in hand from Conifer and Chandos, but the new, improved National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland acquires itself admirably here under Andrew Penny, and its navigation of the cycle is likely to prove stiff competition.

■ SØRENSEN
Sterbende Garten: The Echoing Garden
Hirsch/Danish National Radio Symphony
Orchestra/Søgaard
daca 8.2340.39***

THE violin concerto *Sterbende Garten* (Decaying Gardens) won the Danish composer Bent Sørensen the prestigious Nordic Council Music Prize of 1996. To describe his starting-point, the composer summons the visual image of an old, overgrown garden in which the original contours of its design are just visible through dense undergrowth.

Sometimes it sounds like an exotic garden, with the chattering of birds and beasts depicted high on strings and woodwind. This is not essentially a pictorial piece, however; rather the creation of a sound world evocative of decay and transience, though with structural pillars still faintly discernible.

Rebecca Hirsch is the excellent violin soloist, and the coupling is the six-movement choral symphony, *The Echoing Garden*, in which an atmosphere of decay is again powerfully conjured — this time sustained over an ambitious 40-minute span.



Christie: bigger sound

Mannion) plays flute to the bassoon of Papageno (Anton Scharinger). Mannion's princess is demure, with the notes occasionally having to be squeezed out, but she sounds like an adolescent. She could scarcely be older in the light of Natalie Dessay's very young Queen of the Night. There is a little bit of rage at the start of her Act II aria, but otherwise this Queen is too sweet and true to be a real villainess.

Anton Scharinger is the sole Viennese representative in a highly international cast and it shows in his delivery of some of the spoken dialogue, quickfire in a way nobody else can match. It is a confidential, sympathy-winning performance in the old Austrian style of Erich Kunz. Hans Peter Blochwitz's Tamino is all princely grace and even tone; he never raises his voice except in a brief altercation with the Sprecher (Willard White).

The smaller parts are all carefully cast, with special approval for the young bass Reinhard Hagen (Sarastro) Linda Kitchen (a characterful Papageno) and the exemplary Three Boys, one of France's contributions.

In this joyful set a final word of praise must go to the glockenspiel of Gerald Martin Moore, keyed, we are told, in London.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ ARNOLD
Symphony No 9
National Symphony
Orchestra of Ireland/Penny
Naxos 8.553540***

SO extraordinarily bleak is Malcolm Arnold's Ninth Symphony — with a painfully protracted slow finale — that the work has never before been committed to disc. Was this really what the composer intended? Arnold answers firmly in the affirmative, in an interview appended to this recording, the second issue of the new complete Arnold cycle on budget-label Naxos.

The Ninth — which has

NEW ON VIDEO: A degree in well-meaning melodrama; Roger Rabbit for Easter; Phil Silvers back on parade

HIGHER LEARNING

20:20 Vision, 15, 1995

JOHN SINGLETON'S ambitious film uses university life as a microcosm of American society. Racial disharmony, neo-Nazis, rich and poor, same-sex relationships: some student somnolence on campus is grappled with these issues. Omar Epps is our identification figure, a freshman on an athletics scholarship who expects an easy ride. The film means well, though a final flourish of melodrama makes it more of a cartoon than necessary. With Laurence Fishburne. Available to rent.

A CITY OF SADNESS

Artificial Eye, 15, 1989

HOU HSIAO-HSIEN'S demanding and magisterial fresco of life in turbulent postwar Taiwan, tracing the fortunes of one family during the years following Japan's occupation. Using lengthy takes and a fixed camera, Hou fills the screen with the complex texture of daily life. Some political points will sail over our heads, but the emotional resonances, visual delights and command of detail on an epic scale ensure compelling viewing.

THE DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE

Academy, E, 1973

NO COMMENTARY accompanies Lutz Becker's studiously researched documentary about Hitler's rise to power. Instead, tightly edited footage from newsreels, home movies and the commercial cinema is used to build a gripping portrait of a postwar society racked by excess and poverty, and a people prey to disillusionment. Images of Dietrich and Josephine Baker mingle with Nazi rallies; Prussian bigwigs leading the good life contrast with the ravenous unemployed. This was one of the early film ventures of producer David Putnam.

THE ROGER RABBIT GIFT PACK

Walt Disney, PG

EASTER being the season for bunnies, out pops the frantic Roger Rabbit, scampering full-tilt through

The trouble with education: John Singleton's *Higher Learning* presents life on campus as a microcosm of contemporary America

a tape consisting of the feature film *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, plus three spin-off shorts. *Tummy Trouble*, *Trail Mix-Up* and *Roller Coaster Rabbit*. The blend of animation and live-action in Robert Zemeckis's film is an incredible technical achievement, though as a cartoon character Roger Rabbit appears merely obnoxious next to manic ancestors such as Bugs Bunny or Daffy Duck.

SGT BILKO

Fox, U

TO COINCIDE with the release of the unlovely, unnecessary Steve Martin movie, 18 episodes from Phil Silvers's original television show are now being released, three to a tape. Particular delights include *The Evening Contest*, with lanky Fred Gwynne as "the Stomach", *Dinner at Sowick's* and *The Face on the Recruiting Poster* (the face, by an

error, belongs to that beaming barrel, Doberman). Few television comedy series since have managed the same fusion of brilliant characterisations, witty dialogue and droll turns of plot.

FRANKENSTEIN MUST BE DESTROYED

Warner, 18, 1969

AND SO he is, though not before an exhaustive catalogue of ghoulish

Hammer shocks inspired by the business of organ transplants. Peter Cushing, as the good Doctor, draws on his large reserves of acid countenance; and director Terence Fisher ploughs through the mayhem with tenacity. *Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell*, Hammer's final *Frankenstein* offering, is also available.

GEOFF BROWN

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

HANDEL

La Resurrezione

Les Musiciens du Louvre/

Minkowski

Archiv 447 767-2***

IT WAS Easter Sunday 1708, 30 years before *Messiah* and, thanks to a papal ban on opera, Handel was sharpening his dramatic teeth on a seasonal oratorio to be performed for the Marquis Ruspoli in Rome. Elaborate painted backdrops; a 35-strong string band, led by Corelli; oboes, trumpets, trombones. It was quite an occasion.

And that is exactly what comes over in this recording from Marc Minkowski's Musiciens du Louvre. Recitatives flow free and fast, tempos are risk-taking and arias are handled with considerable swagger. This, after all, has to do with the resolution of supernatural conflict, no less, and the contretemps between



Handel: seasonal oratorio

Lucifer and the Angel has to be heard to be believed.

Holy Saturday night. The gates of Hell swing open with a breathless angelic flourish from the larynx of soprano Annick Massis. She fences in fierce recitative with Laurent Naouri's agile bass Lucifer who, despite his name, cannot stand the sudden light, but rather hopes it may all be in his honour. Handel, of course, enjoys it all immensely, and swiftly moves from Stygian darkness to that of the soul as Mary Magdalene (Jennifer

Smith) grieves and Cleophas (mezzo Linda Maguire) lends a sympathetic ear.

St John (John Mark Ainsley, perfectly cast) adds his own reassurance in a sensuously inflected Italianate aria and, as the trumpet sounds, is the first to see the Sun/Son rise. Satan's last stand rolls into a deep bass free-fall, and Maddalena approaches the tomb with recorders and muted oboe. The Risen Christ is seen, in a shrewd dramatic coup, through the eyes of Mary, Cleophas, the Angel and a radiant, delectably recorded orchestra.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

DIANA KRALL

All For You

Impulse! 11642***

EVERY so often comes the frisson of hearing a new talent that already seems equipped for any challenge. Many people experienced just such a reaction last year on hearing

ELLIS & BRANFORD

MARSALIS

Loved Ones

Columbia 483634**

LANGUOROUS father-and-son duets from New Orleans's

most famous dynasty. Branford puts aside his hip-hopping homeboy image for once, reminding us instead of the gloriously burnished tone he can produce on tenor ballads. The Gershwin's *Liza* is a characteristically off-beat selection, and the more familiar *Stella by Starlight* comes up resoundingly fresh. The older Marsalis's over-respectful piano set pieces — among them *Mis Oris Regrets* — lack the same verve, however.

POP EP

David Sinclair

MANSUN

One

Parlophone 7243 8 82786**

AS WITH previous efforts to find the new Beatles or Bob Dylan, the search for "the next Oasis" will doubtless prove futile, but quite a few bands such as Mansun will show up on the way.

Four likely lads from Cheshire, whose slim CV lists a couple of independent singles

and a tour supporting the Charlatans, Mansun make a convincingly rowdy, 1990s pop sound on their *One* EP, the group's first release since signing to a major label at the end of last year.

With its shambling gait and ragged chorus, *Egg Shaped Fred* is easily the best of the four songs. "She'll see you in hell, I'll go shopping instead."



Mansun: identity crisis

Paul Draper sings in a world-weary voice that rather suffers from his attempt to round off every syllable with a Liam Gallagher sneer.

With its preponderance of shuffly mid-tempo tunes and silly song titles — *Lemonade Secret Drinker*, *St. Jump Nose* — the EP sounds a bit samey, but if they can assert their own identity, Mansun will be a name to watch.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

Moseley Shoals

MCA MCD 00008***

OCEAN Colour Scene were generally assumed to have sunk without trace after their self-titled debut album. But thanks to Chris Evans, their comeback single, *The Riverboat Song*, has become part of the fabric of modern pop life. Its insistent, hustling riff woven into his essential Channel 4 show *TFI Friday*, the Brits and, of course, the charts.

Like its predecessor, their new album is a mixture of undisciplined 1960s influences — Traffic, Joe Cocker, Crosby Stills & Nash and, above all, the Beatles — stitched together with a refreshingly unself-conscious energy.

While Steve Cradock sprinkles the collection with a lively cocktail of traditional guitar riffs, singer Simon Fowler applies a tough, rangy pair of vocal cords to tunes that range from the contemplative ballad *Downstream*, to the hectic stomps of their new hit, *You've Got It Bad*.

"Get up and dance, get up and smile/Get up and drink to the days that are gone in the shortest while," he sings in *One for the Road*, and frankly, there could be no more appropriate response to this barnstorming album.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
*** Worth buying

Three of a kind means a full house

John Allison talks

to Mstislav

Rostropovich

about Schnittke's

triple concerto

Few living musicians have done more to expand the repertory than Mstislav Rostropovich. Even though the cello is no longer the all-consuming focus of his life, on a good day he can spring surprises and the inspirational qualities of his playing still cause composers to queue up to write for him. Warm-hearted and loyal in his characteristically Russian way, as a conductor he is best known for enthusiastic performances of works by such remarkable friends as Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Britten.

One of Rostropovich's latest ventures finds him in a triple role as cellist, conductor and friend: the first recording of Schnittke's *Concerto for Three*. Indeed, it was he who first suggested to Schnittke the idea of a triple concerto for leading exponents of his music. When we met in Amsterdam after a performance of the work given with his fellow dedicatees, the violinist Gidon Kremer and violist Yuri Bashmet, Rostropovich was quick to defend a composer whose music is, by common consent, uneven. "Yes, there's a big variety in quality. But many works grow on one and need intimate knowledge. Look at the Sixth Symphony, which I've conducted; that's an absolutely genius composition, but I only really understand it now — some compositions will take a long time to reach the public."

The *Concerto for Three* is neither

Gidon Kremer, Mstislav Rostropovich and Yuri Bashmet are to release Schnittke's *Concerto for Three*

as dark nor profound as the admired *Viola Concerto* nor as facile as many pieces at the other end of the Schnittke scale. Each of the three soloists is given a technically demanding movement of his own — Rostropovich strides doggedly through his — before they combine in a fierce finale, full of irony and despair, but ends with a theatrical stroke impossible to capture on record: the consternation of the audience, someone rises from his seat, ascends to the platform and brings the music to a halt with

a forearm crash on the piano. Rostropovich finds "deep, very Russian expressiveness" in it. He is also quick to point out the special significance of the title, "for three", in the Russian language: "The expression 'Na troikh' means only one thing — a vodka drinking session, in which each man traditionally drinks a third of the bottle. Schnittke found that very funny, even though he is anti-alcohol. Because of his illness he doesn't touch wine or anything. I think his health problems are an echo of his difficult life in Russia."

Though Rostropovich and his wife Galina Vishnevskaya have led a charmed life, they understand as well as anyone the realities of Soviet existence. For sheltering Solzhenitsyn they were persecuted, eased out of performances and finally deprived of citizenship after a defiant letter to the country's leading newspapers. Rostropovich wrote: "Can it really be that the times we have lived through have not taught us to take a more cautious attitude towards crushing talented people? ... I am stirring up the past not to grumble but so that in the future — say, 20

years from now — we will not be compelled to hide today's newspapers in shame." Just over 20 years later, during the coup of August 1991, he flew, without a visa, to Moscow to spend those momentous days on the streets, where he was hailed as a national hero.

Such is the strength of his attachment to Russia, and he remains outspoken on the political and musical situation there today. "Now in music it's a series of power struggles — it's chaos as each manager runs his orchestra or company according to personal taste. Take the Bolshoi — the head is a dancer, and he's very proud of the idea of marking Shostakovich's nineteenth birthday with a ballet from *Lady Macbeth*. An idiotic idea — Shostakovich wrote enough ballets himself, and this is vocal music that would lose its character if played by instruments. My nose tells me that his widow is behind it — she's interested in getting more performances. She has authority only as the widow, and that's not enough. She's not a musician. I've protested as strongly as possible. Exactly 60 years after Stalin stopped the opera at the Bolshoi, it's the theatre's duty to restore the first version."

But Rostropovich sees the current situation as a passing phase. "When the economy works, when industry is restored, people will have a better life and artists return." He has always been optimistic, sometimes naively so. "When I wrote that letter, I did not expect the government to act so hard against me. Galina warned that some accident would befall me, but I thought it would be all right — I had practically all the titles in Russia. Now, if I'm a little sad, I read the letter again and my spirits are immediately raised — I'm so proud of that letter."

● EMI's new recording of Schnittke's *Concerto for Three*, including *Concerto for Three*, is released next week.

مستخلص

TRAVEL

15

BRITAIN: following in the footsteps of early Cornish missionaries plus Wordsworth country in the spring

Sheer poetry in the Lakes

I was William Wordsworth's sister Dorothy who first wrote about daffodils in her journal on April 15, 1802. "I never saw daffodils so beautiful... some rested their heads on these stones as on a pillow for weariness & the rest tossed and reeled & danced... they looked so gay ever glancing ever changing." Two years later Wordsworth wrote *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, using Dorothy's notes. Now, almost 200 years later, visitors to the poet's beloved Lake District can enjoy a day-long circular Daffodil Tour taking in Wordsworth House at Cockermouth, where the poet was born in 1770, Dove Cottage in Ambleside, where he lived after his marriage, and nearby Rydal Mount, where he remained until his death.

The coach travels along the shores of Lake Ullswater, where William and Dorothy were seeking shelter during a walk in the pouring rain when they first saw the flowers which remain synonymous with spring. The pale, bobbing yellow heads which form a natural border to the lake are the same wild daffodils — *pseudonarcissus*, known locally as the Lent lily — which inspired Wordsworth. Discreet signs ask visitors to leave the flowers for others to enjoy, prompted by those who decide to pick a bunch or dig up the bulbs for their gardens.

When he arrived at Dove Cottage 25 years ago, the first task of George Kirkby, the head guide, was to restore the garden Wordsworth loved. As well as the *pseudonarcissus* —

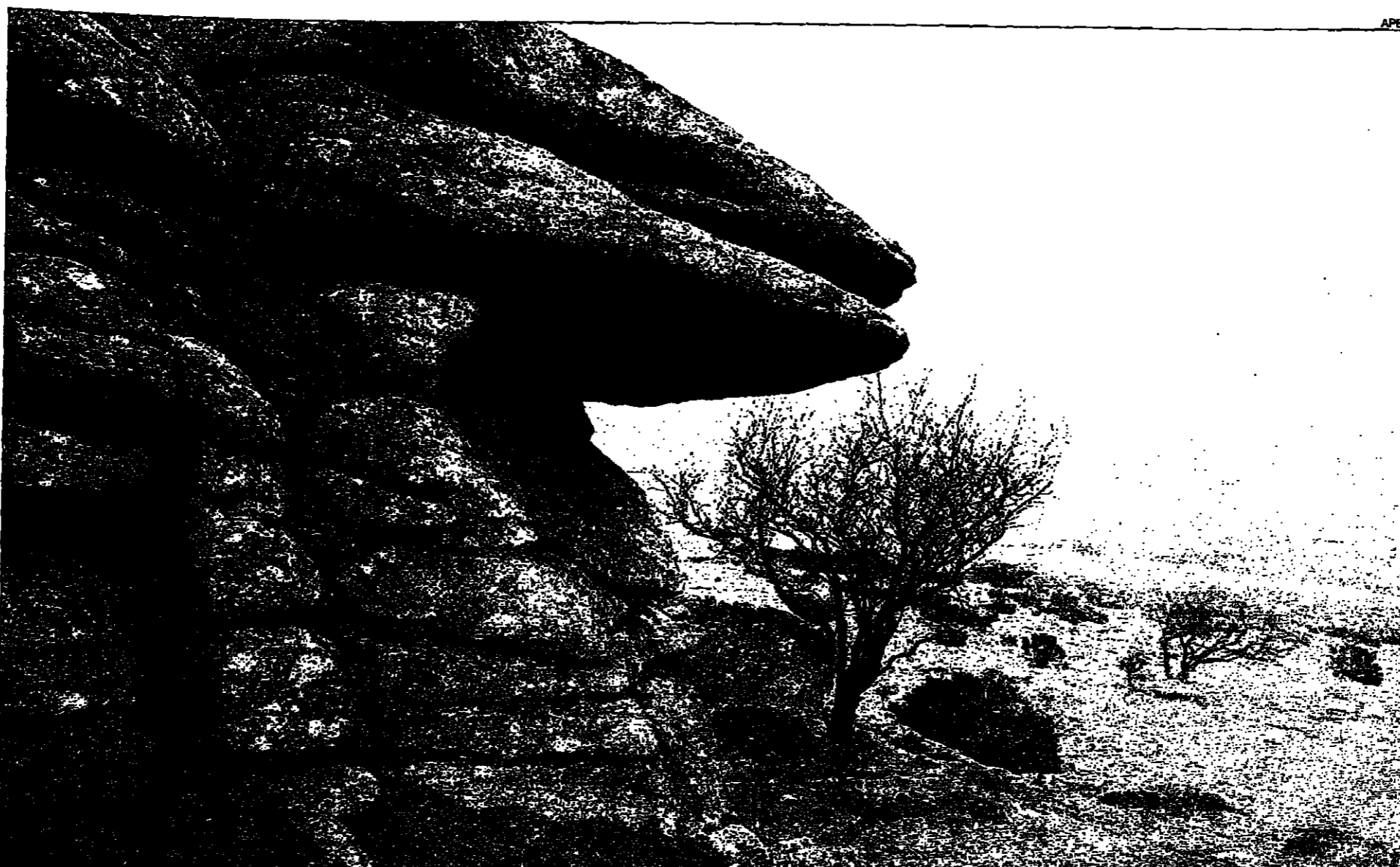
Wild *pseudonarcissus* inspired Wordsworth

any other variety which surfaces is uprooted and planted elsewhere — he has searched for seeds of the wildflowers which grew there in the early 19th century.

Rydal Mount's four acres, designed by Wordsworth, and the adjoining Dora's Field, named after the poet's daughter, glow with daffodils, replaced as summer approaches by bluebells and rhododendrons. The terraced garden of Wordsworth House at Cockermouth, a Georgian townhouse featured in his epic poem *The Prelude*, boasts a fair sprinkling of wild daffodils. Over the garden wall on the banks of the River Derwent there is a wonderful display, albeit of the modern, cultivated varieties of the yellow trumpets.

LYNNE GREENWOOD
Wordsworth day-long Daffodil Tours run from April 3-May 29. Adults £21. Children £10.50. Price includes admission to Rydal Mount, Dove Cottage & Wordsworth House. Tours begin in Keswick (017687 73662) or at Windermere (015394 45161).

Where saints went marching on



From its halfway point at the village of Lanivet, the Saints' Way rises to the awesome granite outcrop of Helman Tor. On a clear day, the view stretches 50 miles towards Dartmoor

There are more saints west of the River Tamar than in Heaven itself, so the saying goes. Through centuries, the Cornish people have perpetuated some 170 holy men and women in a mass of place names and dedications. St Austell, St Breward, St Broock... all are writ large in that gazetteer of godliness, the map of Cornwall. Sadly, in spite of 1,500 years of unbroken Celtic tradition, the lives of many of the saints remain unknown, uncelebrated, as mysterious as the Dark Ages from which they sprang. The path known as the Saints' Way is a spectacular attempt to redress matters.

Winding 26 miles across the high granite spine of the county, it links the major port of Padstow on the northern coast with the port of Fowey in the south. Inaugurated ten years ago, the Saints' Way celebrates as closely as possible the great religious journeys of the Dark Ages. From the sandy expanse of the

Camel estuary to the steep-sided Fowey River, Celtic missionaries would have walked a route broadly similar to the one now enjoyed by thousands of walkers.

The project was inspired almost by accident in the parish of Luxulyan, near St Austell. In the summer of 1984, villagers Clifford Townes and Alf Fookes were investigating public paths when they discovered, beneath the undergrowth, the remains of huge and elaborate granite stiles. They suspected that the path on which they stood might form part of an ancient, major route between the north and south coasts. Historians had long recognised the early existence of such a path across Mid-Cornwall. For Bronze Age traders, it made sense to cross Cornwall overland rather than to navigate the dangerous sea passage around Land's End. In the 6th century, the Christian missionaries came, en route to Brittany, from Ireland and Wales.

"The exact route was an

unknown quantity," says Mr Townes, "so it was a case of going to the British Museum and to local museums and archives to find out what we could." The men assembled enough evidence to conceive the idea of a Saints' Way for the walkers and pilgrims of the 20th century. At the same time, the project would provide work for job-creation programmes.

Tearms moved across Cornwall clearing undergrowth and cutting steps, along routes identified from existing rights of way. Farmers were persuaded to remove obstructions. Members of the Ramblers' Association "tested" the path and pronounced it perfect. May 1986 saw its official opening.

When people come to Cornwall, they tend to congregate on the coast," says Charlie David, North Cornwall Heritage Coast and Countryside Officer. "But this wonderful path that winds its way across the middle of Cornwall is a lovely contrast. There are superb little treasures to be found on the way."

The Saints' Way is Cornwall at its most enigmatic. Through a system of wooden marker posts, each of which bears a stylised Celtic cross, walkers are guided through a land where pagan tribes were converted to the new faith and where, according to legend, the sick were healed and dragons and serpents tamed. Forth an Syna, to give the path its Cornish name, begins appropriately at the south door of Padstow Parish Church where, in 520, St Petroc established his first monastic settlement. "Apparently Petroc arrived on a plantain leaf," says Mr David. "There may be a ring of truth in that because at one stage vegetation was used as a system of waterproofing in Irish coracles. It's certainly more plausible than the mil-

stone that St Piran is supposed to have arrived on."

Petroc, the son of a Welsh chieftain, is said to have performed many acts of kindness to animals as well as to people. Legend has it that, among other things, he rescued a stag from a hunting party, removed a splinter from a dragon's eye and released a sea monster that had become trapped in a lake. He is also supposed to have lived for a while as a hermit on an island in the Indian Ocean. What is undisputed is that he was the greatest of all the saints of Cornwall; dedications throughout the West of England, and in France and Wales survive as lasting tributes to his fame.

Although the sea was higher in the Padstow of the Dark Ages, the Camel estuary has lost none of its power to enchant. Guarded by the cliffs of Pentire and Stepper Points, it is one of Cornwall's most important havens for wading birds. Little egrets have made homes here in the past few

years. The spit of rock, Trebetherick Point, is where Petroc reputedly landed with his followers. Close by, a mound of sand known as the Doom Bar, the result of a mermaid's curse, has traditionally menaced returning ships. Yet away from the bustle of a still-flourishing port and tourist centre, the Camel estuary finds its own serenity. Even in these less saintly times, Petroc would have been at home here.

King Brychan of Wales was another of Padstow's early arrivals. Travelling with him were a dozen daughters and a dozen sons, all of whom became saints. The villages of St Endellion, St Minver, St Teath, St Mabyn and St Kev are named after his children.

Out of Padstow, the Saints' Way climbs to its highest point, St Breock Downs, 216 metres above sea level. The prehistoric long stone, Men Gurta (the Stone of Waiting) is strangely juxtaposed against the whirling turbines of a wind farm. In times past, villagers would

meet here to commemorate St Petroc on his feast day, June 4. From its halfway point at the village of Lanivet, the Saints' Way rises to the awesome granite outcrop of Helman Tor. On a clear day there is a 50-mile expanse of view towards Dartmoor. Our starting point, the Camel Estuary, is far behind us. The "Cornish Alps" of the china clay industry dominate the land to the west, while to the south the Saints' Way trails away tantalisingly towards St Austell Bay and Fowey.

Near Luxulyan, as a buzzard circles overhead, Peter Bishop, a mortgage broker, is in his element. He and his wife, Heather were among the ramblers who helped to establish the path in the 1980s. "I don't go along the Saints' Way singing hymns," says Mr Bishop. "But I do feel a sense of peace and privilege of being allowed to walk along something beautiful far from the bother of modern life."

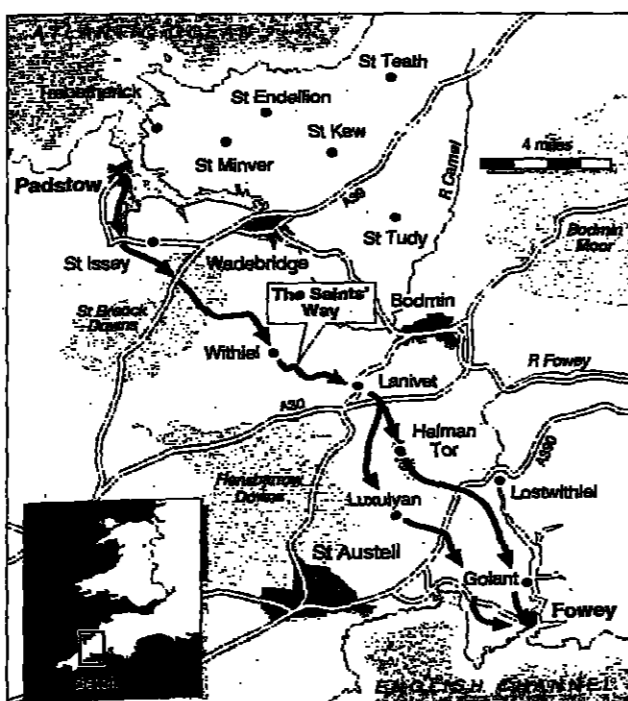
Fact file

□ The Saints' Way is waymarked along the whole of its 26 miles from Padstow to Fowey. For the southern section, there is an alternative route which extends the path to 35 miles. For the fit, experienced hiker, the walk takes two days. But the Saints' Way can easily be enjoyed sections at a time.

□ Restormel Borough Council has produced a free 12-page colour booklet describing a series of circular walks using the Saints' Way. It also includes advice on accommodation as well as details of parking, public transport and pubs and cafes along the route. Write to: Restormel Borough Council, Tourism and Leisure Dept, 39 Penwinick Road, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 5DR.

□ Also recommended is *The Saints' Way - Forth an Syna*, published by Cornwall County Council Countryside Access, which costs £2.50. Send cheques to Cornwall County Council Countryside Access, Transportation and Estates, Castle Canyke Road, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 1DZ.

□ The Ordnance Survey Landranger Map 200 (Newquay and Bodmin) covers the whole route. Better still, use the Pathfinder Maps 1337, 1346, 1347 and 1354.



Travel Renaissance offers

A SPECIAL JOURNEY ON THE MAGNIFICENT VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS AT EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

**From London to Amsterdam in the Spring
Departing 9th MAY 1996 only £349**

Join the world famous Venice Simplon-Orient-Express on its very first journey from London to the beautiful cultural and fascinating city of Amsterdam. At this time of year the city's tree-shaded canals, arch bridges and colourful flower stalls are at their most attractive and combined with your journey on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express this will be truly an experience of a lifetime.



IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

TO EXTEND YOUR STAY

IN AMSTERDAM AND

TRAVEL RENAISSANCE HAS

SELECTED QUALITY THREE

AND FOUR STAR HOTELS FOR

1 OR 2 NIGHT STAYS.

Price supplements
on request.

Depart Thursday 9th May at 11.00 hrs. from London Victoria and enjoy a glass of champagne followed by a superb lunch with wine en route to Folkestone. Following your Seacat crossing your steward will make you comfortable in your elegant cabin on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. As you dress for dinner the gentle sound of a baby grand lures you to the bar car for an aperitif with your fellow passengers. A five course gourmet dinner is impeccably served in the opulent surroundings of the 1920s dining cars. Amid gleaming brass and intricate marquetry the magic of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express will have brought a glorious age back to life. Breakfast is served in your cabin by your steward prior to arriving in Amsterdam at approximately 9.00 a.m. The whole day is free to explore Amsterdam before returning in the early evening by scheduled flight to London Heathrow or by First Class rail/Eurostar to London Waterloo.

For booking details please telephone

01372 742033

Travel Renaissance Holidays

28 South Street, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7PF

Travel Renaissance is a trading division of G.A. Clubb River Cruise Agency Limited

Please send me full details of your AMSTERDAM VSOE HOLIDAY

Mr/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

A Special Announcement

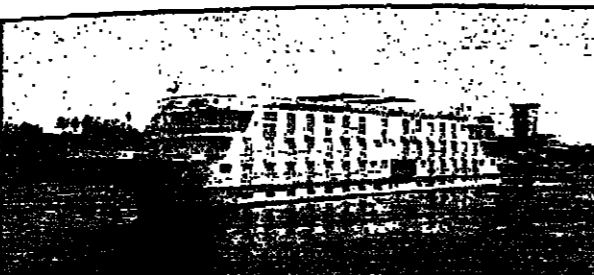
A Week on the Nile - 7 nights from £395

Travellers are flooding back to Egypt but prices have not yet caught up with demand. Earlier this year we secured some extraordinarily low prices for a superior product and we can therefore continue to offer cruises on the first-class MS Ra Nile cruiser. The tour represents excellent value for money since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions.

The journey commences with a direct flight from Gatwick to Aswan to join the MS Ra. Our week-long cruise will include visits to the Temple of Edfu, Esna, the Temple of Karnak, the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Luxor, Kom Ombo, and the Aswan High Dam.

THE MS RA
The MS Ra is a large Nile cruiser purpose built in Britain accommodating up to 140 passengers. Facilities on board include a restaurant, lounge, bar, sun deck with swimming

Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the MS Ra



pool, jacuzzi. All cabins are air conditioned and have private bathrooms. For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

Mondays - per person in twin
1996 May 6, 20 £430

January 20, 27 £510
February 3, 10, 17, 24 £545
March 3, 10, 17 £510
Supplements - per person
Single cabin £150
Middle deck £65
Upper deck £125
Abu Simbel (by road) £69
Price includes: return air travel, transfers, 7 nights on the Ra, full board, excursions, local representatives. Not included: travel insurance, visa (can be obtained by the Company), airport taxes, tips. All prices are subject to change.

0171-6161000

VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square London W1V 6GS

Our offices are open for telephone

reservations weekdays including Bank

Holidays Monday from 9am to 7pm and at weekends 9am to 5pm. For personal callers, our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays.

AFRICA: across the vast Serengeti to Tanzania's lush Ngorongoro crater, and on to northern Kenya

Black rhino of the volcano

It was appropriate that my first visit to the Ngorongoro crater in Tanzania should have been on February 29: it is the sort of sight you do not expect to come upon more than once every four years.

Driving east from Serengeti into the dawn, we climbed a hill not far beyond Olduvai Gorge — and gazed at what lay below. We were at almost 8,000ft, looking 2,000ft down into an extinct volcanic crater about ten miles across and covering a total area of 123 square miles. One may have seen pictures of Ngorongoro and heard of its great size, but nothing can prepare you for the reality.

What is most striking as you

bump slowly down the steep track to the floor of the crater is the lush vegetation and the profusion of wild flowers — deep red orchids and lilies, and what looked like blue scabious. We watched a bee-eater flitting between bushes, and the swallow-like pratincole perched on a tall cactus. Buffalo graze on the grassy slopes; and at the bottom there are patches of woodland where baboons play.

On the floor of the crater, the number and variety of wildlife is breathtaking. Elephant were not hard to find, and we saw five black rhinoceros, which is about 30 per cent of their number living in the crater. The population of lion has recently been depleted due

to inbreeding, but we watched two lionesses stalking, and failing to kill, a zebra. The huge soda lake, the salt pool in the middle of the crater, is home to thousands of flamingoes, and in the several pools of fresh water hippo wallow with egrets on their backs. Elsewhere we saw highly coloured crowned cranes and a male kori bustard displaying its fluffy chest.

Masai herders and warriors (who do not kill animals for food) may also be seen in the crater. By the time we left, around midday, and began the climb up the forested track past white-flowering Cape chestnuts to the crater's rim, several minibuses from surrounding lodges could be seen below. Now that a fourth lodge is to be built nearby, it is advisable to explore the crater as early as possible in the morning.

Having come from Serengeti, we had already seen larger concentrations of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle making their way south in search of better grazing. When the rains come to Kenya, usually between late March and June, they migrate northwards. We had been due to camp in the Masawa reserve, west of Serengeti, but because of heavy rain in February the camp was moved to the edge of the Serengeti National Park, above Lake Ndutu.

Here are dried-up river beds, thin woodland which you can drive through, and the vast and seemingly limitless Serengeti plain where, apart from the big herds, we saw eland (the largest of the African antelopes), hartebeest, topi, hyena, jackal (golden and black-backed) and the occasional cheetah. Lion numbers in Serengeti have fallen by around 60 per cent over the past two years due to an outbreak of distemper, though we were lucky to see three lionesses with cubs.

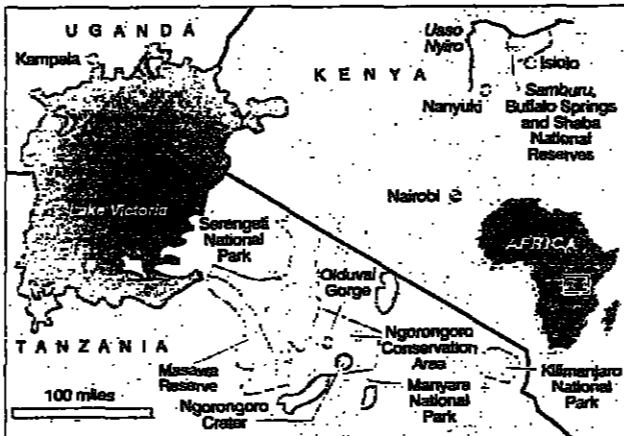
Driving across the plain, sometimes without even an undulation or a bush to break the featureless landscape, I began to understand how people can suffer from agoraphobia. But if you keep going you may be rewarded with some unusual sightings. Over three days we spotted a baobab, an aardwolf, a wild cat and, after dark, a spring hare which, with its elongated hind legs and tail, resembles a small kangaroo.

On another day we drove north across the plain to find some kopjes, outcrops of rock and scrub, where cheetah or even leopard might be seen. Having found nothing more than lappet-faced vultures guarding the kopjes, we stopped for a picnic breakfast. Our safari continued in northern Kenya, reached by light aircraft via Kilimanjaro and Nairobi. We made camp in Shaba reserve, east of Samburu, and some way north of Isiolo. The site chosen was where Joy Adamson had made her home after she left her husband George. Here she reared leopard until she was stabbed to death in 1980 by a Turkana servant whom she had dismissed.

The country is different



Ngorongoro, which covers 123 square miles, is home to a rich variety of wildlife, including the black rhino.



from southern Kenya and Tanzania: there are hills everywhere and thorn bushes grow in an arid landscape often strewn with lava rocks. Then you will suddenly come upon a grove of palm trees and a watering-hole. At one spring, 50 yards from our camp, we often watched elephant.

In early March the nearby Uaso Nyiro river did not hold enough water for crocodiles, but it attracted plenty of waterbuck, plus a few Egyptian geese and yellow-billed storks. In northern Kenya you will also see animals that are not found elsewhere — notably the reticulated giraffe and Grey's zebra, with its white

underbelly and large ears. On the last day we glimpsed two unusual species of antelope, gerenuk and klipspringer, among the boulders. We were heading for the wells where nomadic Somali herdsman bring their animals. It was almost a biblical scene: the women, wrapped in colourful cloths, were surrounded by hundreds of camels, goats and cattle. The men were lifting water from the wells, forming a line from well to trough with makeshift buckets and singing as they heaved the water rhythmically up to their waiting animals.

SIMON COURTAULD

Safari fact file

□ The author travelled to Kenya independently. He flew to Nairobi with British Airways (0345 222111) return from £499. His safari was organised by Robin Hart Safaris (PO Box 25988, Karen, Nairobi) and booked through Bushbuck Safaris (01488 664702). The cost for one week, including all food and drink, charter flights between Serengeti and Shaba and return to Nairobi is £1,900.

□ Safaris may also be arranged through: Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600), Hayes & Jarvis (0181-741 9902) and Sonak Travel (0181-423 7857).

□ The East African Wildlife Society may be contacted at PO Box 20110, Nairobi, Kenya. (Offices in Museum Hill Centre, Museum Hill Road, Nairobi.)

□ April and May is the rainy season when game is plentiful. The warmest months are December to March; the coolest, June to August. Evenings and mornings are generally cool, so pack a jumper for early starts. A hat and sunglasses are essential in the midday sun. Light clothes are suitable on safari and for informal evening wear.

□ Airport tax of US\$20 per person (about £15 or Kshs 1,320) is payable on departure from Kenya; internal domestic flights are taxed at Kshs 100 per person.

□ Abercrombie & Kent recommends membership of the Flying Doctor Society of East Africa (£10 per person for one month's holiday). Write to AMREF, 8 Bourdon Street, London W1. Your subscription will ensure an aircraft to transport you to the nearest medical centre if necessary.

□ No visas are needed to enter Kenya but you will need a full British passport (a British Visitor's passport won't do).

□ Reading: *The Flame Trees of Thika*, *The Mottled Lizard and Out in the Midday Sun*, the three volumes of Elsie Huxley's autobiography (Penguin, £6.99 each); *My Kenya Days* by Wilfred Thesiger (HarperCollins, £6.99).

North opens up to tourists

With its vast and varied landscape, fossil deposits, diverse tribes and abundant wildlife, northern Kenya is being promoted by the country's tourism department and wildlife service as part of a campaign to alleviate the pressure of visitors in the most popular national parks, such as the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tsavo.

The north begins east of the beacon on Mount Kenya, where the Meru national park is one of the most wild and beautiful in the country. Straddling the Equator and bisected by 13 rivers and numerous mountain-fed streams, its scenery ranges from woodlands at 3,000ft on the slopes of the Nyambeni range to wide plains with wandering river-banks dotted with dune palms.

The rivers abound with hippo and crocodile and fishing for barbus and catfish is allowed at campsites along the Tana river. More than 300 species of birds have been recorded, including the Peter's finfoot and Pel's fishing owl, as well as kingfishers, bee-eaters and weavers. Small and rare breeds of antelope do their best to avoid the large prides of lions and herds of buffalo.

Further north, the Samburu, Shaba and Buffalo Springs reserves are marked by rounded and rugged hills and undulating plains. The mix of wood and grassland with riverine forest is home to a wide variety of animal and birdlife: reticulated giraffe, Grey's zebra (bigger and more handsome than the familiar breed), elephant, oryx,

Somali ostrich, hippo and crocodile. There are sufficient bird species for visitors to spot a different one every day of the year.

The reserves are already geared for a steady flow of visitors. Samburu has three lodges with a total of 270 beds, while Shaba has one 178-bed lodge, a tented lodge and an airstrip.

Continuing north, there are the forested mountains of Marsabit, which was once joined to Samburu, Shaba and Buffalo Springs to form one huge reserve, but is now a reserve in its own right. Marsabit (meaning "mountain of cold") rises spectacularly from the middle of a desert wilderness and provides the only source of permanent surface water in the region. It has three crater lakes with abundant birdlife.

The Siboli national park, on Kenya's remote border with Ethiopia, is where an expedition led by Richard Leakey in the 1960s discovered some of the earliest traces of human-like fossils. Later, more than 160 fossil remains of early man were discovered, placing our origins to three million years ago. The locations of the most important finds are open to visitors.

With such a variety of attractions, it is small wonder that David Western, director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, predicts that northern Kenya will eventually surpass Namibia as a Mecca for discerning tourists.

TONY DAWE

Travellers' TALES with BALES

FROM THE FURTHEST CORNERS OF THE WORLD

"Each time I have been on holiday with Bales I have always had a great time, culminating in my first trip to Jordan, when I had a ball."

MRS P. SMART, FIFE.

"I am writing on behalf of my family to thank you for the wonderful time that we had on your tour. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and even surpassed our best expectations."

MR J. LEWIS, LEAMINGTON SPA.

"My husband and I returned in late September from your 'Rocky Mountaineer' tour in Canada. It was our first escorted tour with your company, and it will definitely not be our last."

MRS H. BLWTON, BERNES.

"If you're looking for an interesting and unusual holiday, Bales go further, to a variety of exotic and adventurous destinations all over the world. We also go further to ensure your total comfort and enjoyment whilst you're there. So let Bales be your travel guide to a different world. For the full story on all our destinations, call for our free '96 brochure."

01233 211307
Quoting P.1 TEL 44 JIC.1
ATA VDC

KENYA SAFARIS
WITH THE UK'S FAVOURITE OPERATOR
from £702
The choice is yours.
REACH EXTENSIONS AVAILABLE
MOMBASA
TRAVELLERS BEACH HOTEL
Depart 21 April - 9 June
7/14 Nts HB from £399
Many other hotels available
Sonak
HOLIDAYS
Contact your local agent or call
0181 423 3000
ATA VDC

TROPICAL PLACES
KENYA
5* NYALI BEACH
14 days Half Board
21 Apr - 26 May £599
FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS SEE US
Teletext
PAGE 259
01342 825 123
OPEN 9am - 5pm ALL WEEKEND
24HR BROCHURE LINE
01342 825 599
TROPICAL PLACES LTD
The Specialists in exotic holidays
ARTA 100% IATA ATOL 322 ATTO

FOR FURTHER
ADVERTISING
DETAILS
PLEASE
CALL
EMMA FAINT
MARTIN WOOLLEY
OR ANNE HUGHES
0171 782 7277

Turkey Beyond
BEYOND BELIEF
Specialist Istanbul Short Breaks
• Rich history, romantic dining
and a shoppers paradise • Wide
variety of select accommodation
Going Further For You
0171 486 3388
TURKEY & NORTH CYPRUS

Lisbon

from

£99

Amsterdam

from

£85

Toronto

from

£339

Call now or see your travel agent. All fares listed are return from London, may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger taxes apply. For details and conditions see ITV Teletext page 380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop.

For these and many other World Offers call: 0345 222111

Book by 1st May '96.

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS
The world's favourite airline

0345 222111

TRAVEL

17

POLAND: Paul Hoggart walks the beautiful hills and valleys around Zakopane in the Tatra mountains

Trekking up to where eagles perch

Thousands of cornflowers infuse the wheat fields with a blue-grey mist. Cut hay is draped over rows of tall, pronged staves, making grassy replicas of the lines of megaliths at Carnac in France. Villagers come to the verges of the road from Cracow to sell jars of wild berries. After the dreary south Polish plain the Podhale, the lush foothills of the Tatra mountains, are radiant and fresh.

The Tatras are the highest, most northerly cluster of the Carpathian arch as it sweeps from the edge of Austria to the Ukraine. Straddling the Slovak border, the peaks of the central ridge are the highest in Poland. They are stunningly beautiful, with an alpine grandeur, despite their relatively modest height (up to 8,167ft). The Poles adore them and come in hordes, to ski in winter, to hike and climb in summer. In high season, the summits can get as crowded as London's Eros in August.

Huddled under the mountains is the busy little resort of Zakopane — once a tiny village, now a mushroom field of campsites and wooden holiday villas. The centre is a hotch-potch of restaurants, museums, climbing shops and souvenir stalls.

The mountains were "discovered" in the 19th century by Poland's artistic intelligentsia. Under Austrian rule Zakopane became the focus of an art-crafty revival of rustic architecture and an epicentre of folkloric nationalism.

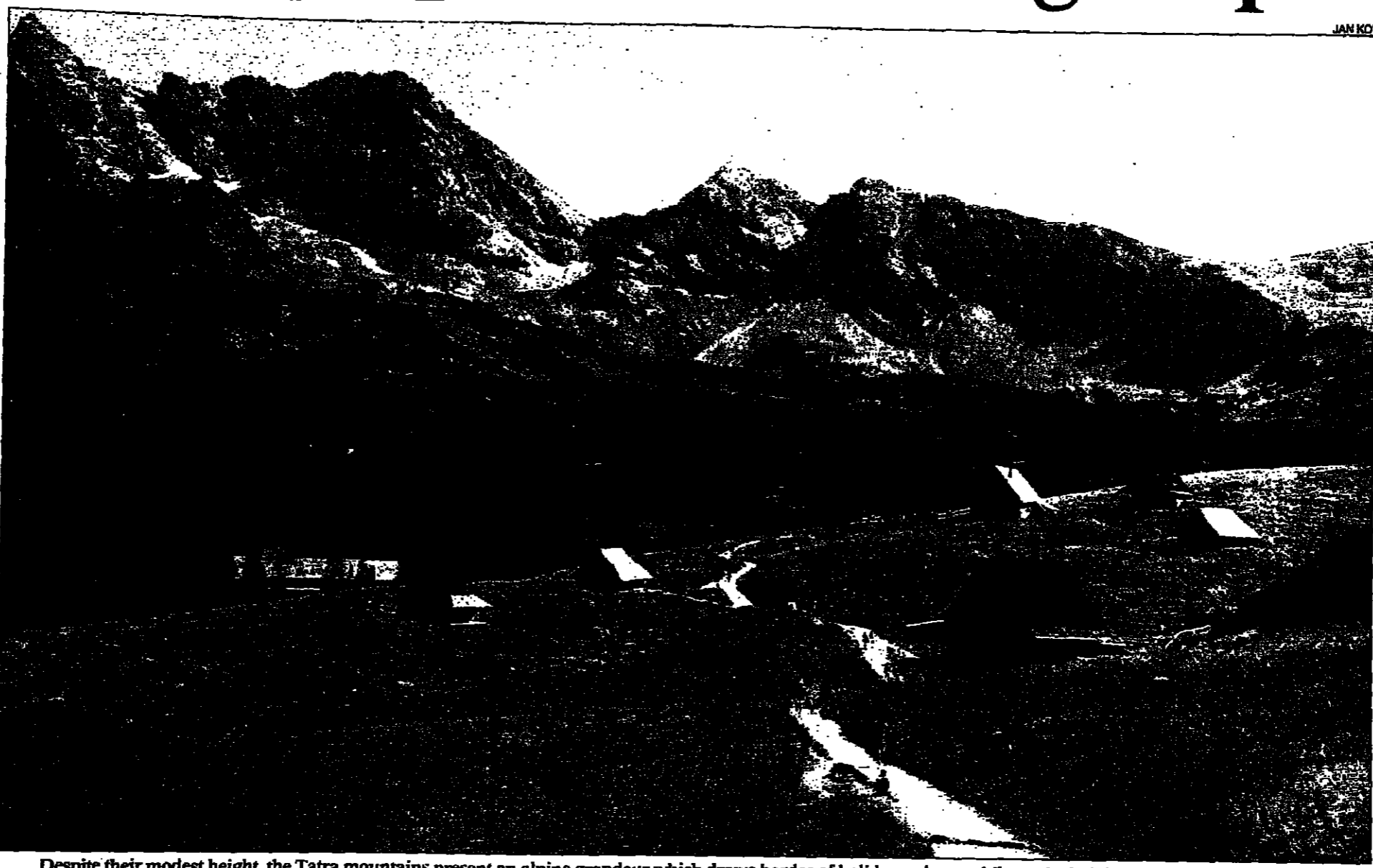
As the resort swelled it sprouted "traditional" wooden buildings, many designed by Stanislaw Witkiewicz, inventor of the "Zakopane style". This splices the local log architecture with a pinch of Art Nouveau. Several of the grander villas can be visited, but the chapel at Jaszczyrówka is the most elaborate example. With its steep, roof and gables in complex layers and decorative carving throughout, it is ornate to the point of fussiness, but delightful none the less.

Little remains of the original village except the old parish church, also wooden but much simpler. Black outside, warm mid-tones within, it has a satisfying chunky charm. In the tiny graveyard strange, upright logs with naive religious carvings and topped with little roofs — half totem poles, half nesting boxes — serve as headstones.

Zakopane is lined with stalls selling raw wool pullovers, wooden knick-knacks and brintza, the local smoked sheep's milk cheeses. The shape and colour of rugby balls and almost as rubbery, they are sharp and salty.

The sprawling market offers minute wild strawberries and blueberries at about 60p a cup. Ukrainian traders flog anything from the back of a former Soviet army lorry: rucoco retirement watches, compasses and KGB-surplus spectacles with sinister mini-binoculars protruding from the frames.

At night the crowds amble the steep high street. Gipsy bands tout for the restaurant trade. Euro-buskers mangle transatlantic "garden urdies" to passers-by. It's all very



Despite their modest height, the Tatra mountains present an alpine grandeur which draws hordes of holidaymakers to hike and climb in summer and ski in winter

ingly difficult sections, before turning north away from Rysy, along a spectacular ridge called the "Eagles' Perch". Pressed for time, we took a steep path down from Swinica to another idyllic, trout-filled lake. Here we were (justly) harangued by a truck-shaped matron when my friend threw crumbs to the fish against reserve regulations.

The track meandered through alpine pastures, dotted with wooden huts before dropping dramatically across a ridge into Kuźnice.

Apart from the delights of the landscape, southern Poland is generally extremely cheap and preserves an engagingly dated raffishness. The driver of our bus from Cracow (£2 each return) sported a grandiose comic-opera moustache, while a fellow passenger, the spitting image of Harry Enfield's "Old Girl", whipped out a black and silver cigarette holder and smoked with the poise of a Noël Coward lounge lizard.

Zakopane is full of cheap restaurants, selling hearty dishes such as potato pancakes with goulash. At the costly rustic Obrochówka, a modest portion of roast duck costs about £1, and a three-course meal with good local beer £4.

Most routes to the Tatra come through the superb city of Cracow. You can eat at the Wierzynek, possibly the best restaurant in the country, for under £20 a head. We had an excellent meal of traditional dishes (poached carp in jelly, herring in cream sauce, venison fillets) in the room where Spielberg ate when filming *Schindler's List*.

The area remains engagingly unsophisticated, but in the cheaper hotels you have at least a 50 per cent chance of finding a bath plug. Given the glories of the mountains and, for that matter, Cracow, who's complaining.

How to get to the Zakopane region and where to stay

□ The author flew to Cracow as a guest of LOT Polish Airlines, 315 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-580 5037).

□ Flights from London (Heathrow 2) to Cracow before June 15 are on Wednesdays and Saturdays, departing at 17.30 and arriving in Cracow at 20.50. Return flights, Wednesdays and Saturdays, depart Cracow at 14.55, arriving Heathrow 16.30. Fare: £225 return, plus about £15 in airport taxes. From June 15, flights are on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, at the same times as above; £255 plus taxes.

□ Flights reach Cracow after the last buses have left for Zakopane. The 24-hour taxi ride costs about £50 each way. During the day, buses leave every hour for Zakopane at under £10 return.

□ Polorbis (Polish travel agency), 82 Mortimer Street,



London W1 (0171-636 2217), offers return flights plus seven nights half-board (see menu) in the Hotel Kasprowy. Zakopane for £350 per person sharing a twin room until May 15 (£345 after that date), plus the cost of the transfer from Cracow to Zakopane. The Kasprowy offers a free shuttle service from the hotel

to Zakopane bus station, from which buses leave frequently for all the main beauty spots in the area.

□ Car hire (available through Polorbis) is about £238 a week for a Renault Clio, with unlimited mileage, plus £13 a day insurance.

□ Bed and breakfast accommodation with Polish families offers excellent value, with prices from about £10 per person per night. There is an agency, TPT Taty (Zakopane 4000) on the corner of ul Kosciuszki and Al 3 Maja.

□ Details of walks in the region are included in Tim Burford's *Hiking Guide to Poland and the Ukraine* (Bradt Publications, £11.99). PPWK (Polish Ordnance Survey) maps are available locally, including an excellent 1:30,000 walking map of the national park.

pond"), higher, smaller and even more beautiful, the crowds melt away. As I climbed on past the first big wedge of permanent snow they had all but gone, leaving me to not-quite-solitary communion with the landscape.

Rysy, at 8,167ft, is the highest and most imposing peak in Poland (there are a few higher in Slovakia). It's a prime target for hillwalkers — Lenin is said to have climbed it — but it is demanding, with fixed chains in places, and requires an early start.

A side path below Morskie Oko takes you to the high valley of the Five Polish Lakes, where there is a log hut with sleeping accommodation and a restaurant. Deep in the nature reserve, this beautiful valley probably offers the purest Tatra country. Bears, wolves, lynxes, wildcats and chamois survive in the wilderness around.

Paths swarm with parties of lithe youngsters, in simple, unfussy clothes, like pre-1960s youth hostellers. They greet you with a chirpy "Czes", Polish for "Hi". This is pronounced "Tschetch", so the hills are alive with the sound of sneezing.

The Polish attitude to mountains can seem cavalier, going on suicidal. Anyone and everyone attacks the peaks, walking up in thin trainers, sandals, even flip-flops. We saw men in T-shirts heading for the summit of Rysy as dusk closed in — no winnypish woolies for them, let alone whistles or heavy bags. On Giewont, a friend saw nuns climbing the chains in their habits, while small children were passed up and down difficult sections like luggage on a train.

The quickest way up the main ridge is by the Kuźnice cable car. Polish holiday-makers queue for hours to get on, although you can pre-book places in the Orbis office (state travel agency) in Zakopane the day before.

The views on the ridge are, of course, wonderful. To the north, the southern Polish plain stretches beyond the foothills, disappearing in a polluted brownish haze some where near Cracow. To the south, the prospect of Slovakia is mouthwatering: deep-green valleys in ever receding folds

between the jagged ranks of dark peaks, some glistening with snow. A rusty, uprooted sign marks the border on a side path, a reminder that it is still illegal to cross here.

We struck east towards Swinica (7,547ft), the first real peak in our path. Here again

there are fixed chains as you near the top, some to cross steep slopes over steeper drops. The bare rock summit was, inevitably, covered with cheery hay-fever victims and I had difficulty finding a perch.

From Swinica the walk follows the border, with increas-

20%
P&O
CRUISES

BOOK NOW AND SEE WHAT YOU COULD SAVE ON A P&O WINTER CRUISE.

Put a circle round the 30th of June if you're considering a P&O winter cruise on Oriana, Canberra or Victoria.

Book before that date and you could save 20% if your cruise is 40 nights or more, or 15% if it's between 9 and 39 nights.

If you're booking a full World Cruise, you'll also receive complimentary insurance and £100 to spend on board.

We've set aside a fixed number of cabins on each cruise to qualify for this discount. So when they're gone, they're gone.

(On second thoughts, perhaps you should circle tomorrow instead.)

Talk to your Travel Agent or call 0171 800 2222 for further details.

P&O Cruises

Answers from page 23

TREFA

(a) Flesh meat forbidden to be eaten by Jews because the animal has not been slaughtered in the manner prescribed by the Law. From the Hebrew word "that which is torn", ie flesh of an animal torn (or pounced upon fatally) by a wild beast. "Trefa" in a broader sense includes a regularly but unskillfully killed animal, in contradistinction to Nebelah.

TATTIE BOGLE

(b) Scottish rural slang for a scarecrow, a bogle or frightener who keeps watch over the tattie (potato) field. Your latest excursion to the Dead Men's Department in Oxford has outfitted you as the best-dressed tattie bogle in the office, Philip.

SYSSITIA

(a) Meals eaten together in public. The custom of eating the chief meal of the day at a public mess, as practised in Sparta and Crete. From the Greek *syssin* together + *siros* grub. "Necessity and the waiter drive them all to a sepulchral syssition."

STATANT

(b) In Heraldry, of an animal, especially a lion, standing in profile with all four feet on the ground. Irregularly formed from *stat*, the participle stem of Latin *stare* to stand. The regular formation would be *standing* or *static*, but Heraldry loves the irregular. "A Lion Statant, having his Tail extended in a right line, is the Crest of the Duke of Northumberland."

FRANCE NOW!

GREAT VALUE WAYS TO ENJOY BRITANNY AND NORMANDY

DAY TRIPS AND 24-HOUR RETURNS

£19

Car plus occupants

3-DAY RETURNS

£49

Car plus occupants

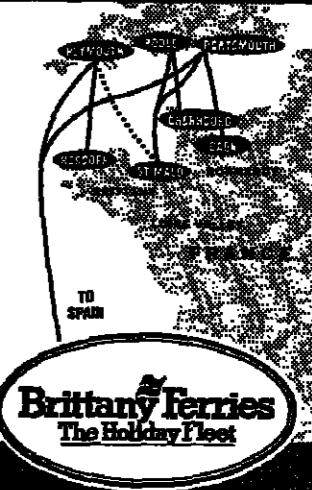
8-DAY RETURNS

£79

Car plus occupants

RESERVATIONS 0990 360 360

BROCHURES 0990 143 537

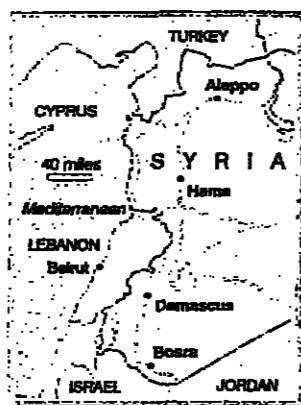


FARE CONDITIONS - All travel to France to be completed by 30 April 1996. Special fares subject to availability, not available in conjunction with any other offer, promotion, discount or tour operator's tariff. Standard booking conditions as shown in current brochures also apply. Payment required on booking. Special fares can be used in conjunction with inclusive holidays, where ferry travel is priced separately. £10 per car supplement for Friday night departures to France. Brittany Ferries reserve the right to alter, vary or withdraw any special fare on offer at any time. No refunds. £10 alteration fee. Other special conditions apply. Please enquire.

SYRIA AND JORDAN: exploring the past of two countries that have changed little since biblical times

Pilgrims galore but little progress

We entered the ruined city of Bosra through the western Wind Gate, treading the Roman cobbles. Initially it seemed a sombre place, all black and grey basalt, and we were taken aback at the squalor. Local people live among the fallen splendours, leaning their flimsy dwellings against crumbling columns; telephone cables extend from a third-century triumphal arch. An underground warehouse drips with stagnant water. Donkeys hobble around.

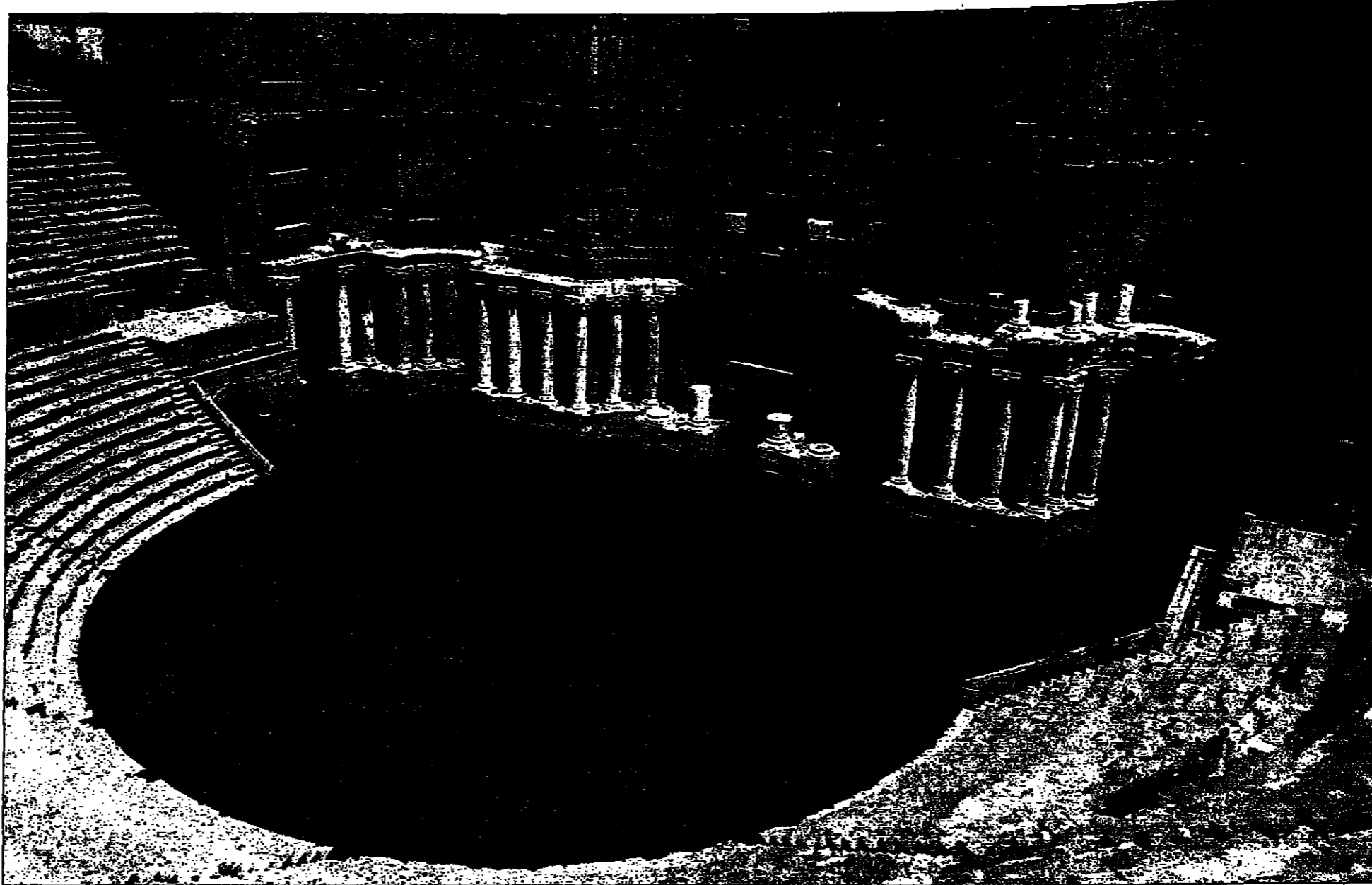


Throughout the 1st century AD, Bosra was the northern capital of the Nabateans, those bandit-turned-taxmen whose southern capital was Petra. It stood at the intersection of various caravan routes. The Romans overtook the city in 106 AD, garrisoning the Third Legion there. Later, the Prophet Muhammad took instruction from the Nestorian monk Bahira at Bosra and, for centuries afterwards, pilgrims stopped there on their way to Mecca.

The Syrian Government plans to rehouse the squatters and restore the site. In some ways that would be a pity, for they give the ruins a surreal dimension. The most surprising building is the citadel, which stands outside the main site. What seems at first to be a medieval Saracen fortress turns out to enclose a huge 2nd-century amphitheatre, one of the best preserved Roman buildings in the world. The stage has a permanent set composed of Corinthian columns. The amphitheatre is a popular picnic site and, on Fridays, full of merry-makers.

Every armchair traveller has exotic preconceptions of Damascus — and it lives up to most of them. I was particularly charmed by the Azem Palace (Dar al-Azem), the 18th-century Ottoman mansion of Assad Pasha Azem, the governor of the city. Courtyards with tiled floors, fountains and orange trees, high-ceilinged, paneled rooms, everything luxuriously lacquered and inlaid. It was like a restrained version of Cardiff Castle. One room featured a cabinet of curiosities, including three lines of poetry written (with a cat's whisker) on a grain of wheat and an eggshell covered with Koranic verses.

The vast, carpeted prayer hall of the Omayyad Mosque is serene, with worshippers sitting in contemplation or chatting quietly. To the side of the main chamber is a smaller one where things are not so placid: black-clad women grieve noisily for Hussein, the son of Ali, slain at the battle of Karbala in the Middle Ages. The weeping and wailing has lasted 13 centuries. As in all of Syria, the passing of time is



The huge amphitheatre in Bosra, shown here flooded, is one of the best preserved Roman buildings in the world. It is a popular site for picnickers and merry-makers

irrelevant. This has been a place of worship for nearly three millennia. The ancient Arameans built a temple here to Hadad (the god of thunder and lightning) in the 9th century BC. In turn, it became a Roman temple for Jupiter and the Cathedral of St John the Baptist. In 708 the sixth Omayyad caliph, al-Walid, decided to build a great mosque to establish Damascus as the political and cultural centre of the Islamic world; he destroyed the cathedral and used its stones for the mosque, which took seven years to build. There are three minarets, the tallest being the Tower of Jesus (Madhanat Issa). It is widely believed that Jesus will one day descend from this tower to fight the Antichrist.

The Old Town is composed of winding streets and houses with bay windows that sometimes touch the windows of the houses opposite. I watched some bakers using a clay oven. The souk, with its perfumers and spice vendors, is worth visiting, although it is not as remarkable as the huge, labyrinthine one at Aleppo.

President Assad's face is everywhere: on walls, windows, moving traffic. Near our hotel, his portrait on a banner

□ The author was a guest of Insight Tours (0181-332 2900), which offers a 12-day escorted coach tour through Jordan and Syria, flying into Amman with Royal Jordanian Airlines (0171-734 2557). Prices, including flights, accommodation and most meals, start from £1,299.

□ If you prefer to visit Syria independently, the following airlines fly to Damascus: Syrian Arab Airlines (0171-493 2851), British Airways (0345 222111), Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300), British Mediterranean (0171-493 3030), KLM (0181-750 9000), Air France (0181-742 6600), Egypt Air (0171-734 2395).

Fact file

□ Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) offers a very attractive long weekend in Damascus, "Arabian Freelance", from £441, including flights and accommodation.

□ The best time to travel to Syria is from April to October, avoiding the cold and often wet Syrian winter.

□ The author stayed at five-star Cham Palace hotels in Bosra, Damascus, Hama, Palmyra and Aleppo. There are plenty of cheaper alternatives listed in the *Travel Survival Kit for Jordan and Syria* (Lonely Planet, £9.95). One of the

best restaurants in Damascus is Alf-Layleh-Wa-Layleh (1001 Nights), which is in the old town. Any hotel reception would be able to direct you there.

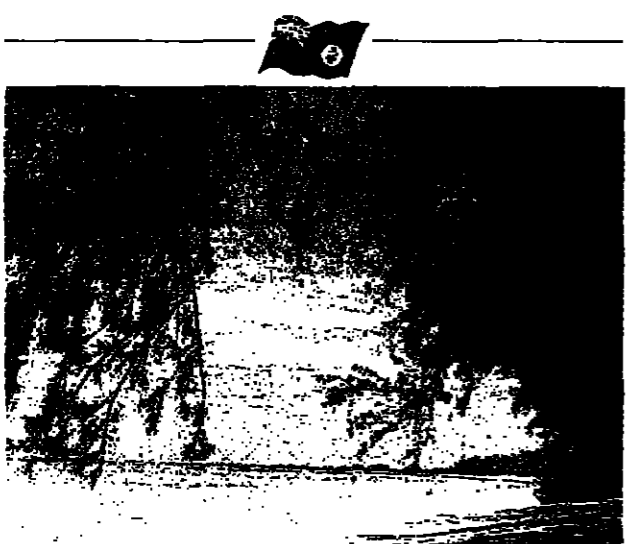
□ There is no Syrian Tourist Board in London. Some tourist information might be available from the Syrian Embassy, 8 Belgrave Square, London SW1 (0171-245 9012). It is necessary to obtain a visa from the embassy.

□ Reading: *Syria Revealed* by Anthony King (Boxer Revelation Guides, £12.99), *Syria: A History and Architectural Guide* by W Ball (Scorpion, £14.95), *Monuments of Syria* by Ross Burns (I.B. Tauris, hardback £49.50, softback £18.95).

do drawings, some are much the same age. The norias no longer function but still turn when the river is high enough, emitting (I am told) a groaning noise. Old people say the wheels speak. They were silent that evening, the river no more than a shallow pool. As I crossed the river, the calls to prayer trailed off. Downtown it was busy but hushed: people were speaking quietly, trying on shoes. Arab pop seeped from the doorway of a music shop. There were building sites all over the place, possibly the aftermath of 1982 when the Muslim Brotherhood was quashed; government tanks rolled into Hama, bombs were dropped. Several thousand people were killed and countless buildings, including the Grand Mosque, destroyed.

People were buying blankets and quilted coats. One dusty shop featured stuffed birds (a pelican, an eagle, some chickens and an owl) wearing necklaces of semiprecious stones. There was no assistant. Was it a jeweller or a taxidermist? I left quickly and followed my nose to a shop where coffee was roasted, and bought a kilo bag, still warm and pungent with cardamom.

JOE ROBERTS



Seven Mile Beach



12ft. Dive

It's hard to tear yourself away from the seclusion and splendour of Seven Mile Beach with its powder white sand lapped by a turquoise sea.

But the temptation of the world's best 12ft. dive, where you can swim with the friendly stingrays at Stingray City, may prove too great. As may the two championship golf courses or our exotic Botanic Park.

In this friendly British Crown Colony in the Caribbean, holidays are not just magical on the surface.

For free brochures, please call 0171-491 7771.

CAYMAN ISLANDS
WARMED BY MORE THAN THE SUN
Cayman Islands Department of Tourism
6 Arlington Street, London SW1A 1RE
Telephone: 0171-491 7771 • Fax: 0171-409 7773

Lost in the shadowy desert mountains

Sabbah, the Beduin guide and occasional taxi-driver, dropped us off at the foot of the mountain. As he clambered back into the battered 4x4, he casually called out, "Climb climb. Fire tea", before speeding off into the desert.

We later discovered that there was to be plenty of climbing that day as we followed an ancient route up Burdah mountain in Jordan's Wadi Rum, but sadly no tea.

Underestimating the effect the 40C heat would have on us as we scrambled up the rock face, we only just made it to the top as evening fell.

Climbing down, the fading light played tricks with the pitted stone, turning the path into a shadowy maze. Eventually we had to admit we were lost: lost with no water, a few dry biscuits and no protection against the bitter desert night. But our little adventure was hardly unique. Later we were told of other climbers spending freezing nights on small ledges, helicopter rescues and the really desperate having to drink urine to survive.

Wadi Rum is a desert area that is dominated by huge dome-topped sandstone mountains known as Jebels. As you turn off the smooth King's Highway, (one of the world's oldest trade routes), and begin to bump along the road into this arid kingdom, rust-coloured walls rise up on either side of the desert floor. These get bigger and bigger until you reach the tiny settlement of Rum. This motley collection of breeze-block dwellings and tents, dominated by the towering walls around, is the home to the semi-nomadic Howait Beduin tribe.

Lawrence of Arabia was one of the first people to visit the area and

record what he saw as he roamed around the region during the 1917 Arab Revolt. Lawrence observed in his book *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*: "We looked up to the left to a long wall of rock, sheering in like a 1,000ft wave towards the middle of the valley. Our little caravan grew self-conscious, and fell dead quiet, afraid and ashamed to flaunt its smallness in the presence of the stupendous hills." Since being immortalised in the David Lean film *Lawrence of Arabia*, a steady number of visitors has been coming to Wadi Rum to marvel at the desolate landscape, which turns a deep blood-red at sunset. Trips are usually one-day affairs tucked on to visits to the ancient city of Petra, a 90-minute drive away. As part of the Lawrence experience, you can eat and dance in a Beduin tent or don a keffiyeh (Arab head-gear) and ride a camel to the roman-

tic-sounding Lawrence's well — which unfortunately turns out to be little more than a muddy pool. But, to rock climbers and walkers of the adventurous persuasion, Wadi Rum offers a lot more. Until the early 1980s these pursuits were almost unheard of but, in 1984, the Jordanian Government invited a party of British climbers to assess the area. A few years later, a guide book appeared and word began to spread. Now, as mountaineers look further afield to practise their sport, Wadi Rum is "in vogue". There are vast tracts of unexplored rock as well as treks to places that few apart from the Beduin have visited.

As part of a hunting trip, in search of rare herbs or as a quick and shady way through the mountains, the Beduin have developed detailed path-



Hiking in the Wadi Rum

ways. Take Sheikh Hamdan's Route for example, the easiest route up Jebel Rum (1,745 metres), the highest point in the area.

Unless you feel up to a 15km walk across the desert you must find a Bedu to take you across to the mountain base and there is no haggling over the fare. It costs 30 Dinars (£30) for an exhilarating if bone-shaking drive across the sands.

The route itself seems to end abruptly at a blank wall. In fact, it ingeniously follows cairns and small arrows that lead up the steep-sided slabs of the gorge.

Getting there

□ The author travelled independently and his 14-day trip cost about £350, with flights.

□ Explore Worldwide (01252 344161) offers a ten-day Lawrence of Arabia tour, with two nights' camping at Wadi Rum, for £890, including flights, tax and visits to Petra and Amman.

□ Elias Thomson (0171-707 9000) offers a week's self-catering at the Aparthotel Riviera from £803 for two sharing, or flight and £88 for £349.

□ Aqaba: Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) offers seven-day, full-board holidays at the Coral Beach hotel from £580 per person, including flights and tax.

□ Accommodation: the Wadi Rum Guest House charges about £2 to sleep on the roof. Rooms in the village cost about the same.

□ When to go: spring, with longer hours of daylight, is best. In summer, temperatures reach about 40C and in late autumn there can be flash floods.

□ Reading: *Jordan and Syria* (Lonely Planet, £8.95), *Treks and Climbs in the Mountains of Wadi Rum* by Tony Howard (Cicerone Press, £12.99), *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence (Penguin, £8.99).

Eventually you make it to the top. It is almost totally silent apart from snatches of Muslim prayer calls and camel screeches carried on the wind.

There are scores of similar routes in the area. All you require is some mountain knowledge, a head for heights and some basic rock craft.

When exploring, you are constantly thinking about water. Two litres a day is reckoned to be the minimum, although when trekking through the desert it is easy to sink a lot more. If you are lucky you may find a spot where water seeps out of the rocks, a refreshing change to the warm

plastic bottle variety. A more promising option is to stock up in Rum. Water is available from wells but the manager of the Government-run rest house claims that this is unfit to drink. Maybe, although it could be a ploy to get you to buy his over-priced "no calories" water (80p). Cheaper bottled water is available, as well as basic foodstuffs and ice cream.

Rum itself was originally a semi-permanent camp, but over the past few years the black goat-hair tents have been replaced by buildings. These, along with the battered vehicles and dirt tracks, seem at odds with the grand surroundings. However, its charms as a desert outpost, centred around a small *Beau Geste*-style fort, soon begin to grow on travellers.

Travel literature states that there is nowhere to stay, but the resthouse has space on the roof — they provide a blanket and a mattress. Villagers are also beginning to offer rooms. With the opening of the Israeli border at Eilat, and the Jordanian Government's investment in tourism, more people are likely to venture into the area. At cooler times of the year, such as Christmas, the place can be full of climbers and walkers.

The Beduin do make a living from tourism by acting as guides and ferrying visitors around by camel and jeep. But plans to build a tourist hotel have been resisted and it is hard to see how this self-sufficient group would ever let their way of life be manipulated or destroyed by the tourism industry.

Luckily, for the present, there is good money to be made from rescuing stranded climbers. After an uncomfortable night under the stars, we stumbled down the mountain at dawn to be met by a bemused Sabbah. A few hours later, relaxing in his cool house, there was still no tea, but instead there were cups of sweet, cardamom-flavoured coffee.

RICHARD NELSSON

ساحل الامارات

TRAVEL

19

Clue up to see the world

TAXI
FOLLOWING complaints against aggressive cowboy taxi drivers, the Port Authority of New York has announced a fine rate of \$30 (about £20) for the 16-mile journey from JFK airport to Manhattan. Brave souls can limit the tip to 10 per cent.

Complaints about taxi charges from London Heathrow are as frequent but less effective: the average charge for the 16-mile drive to the West End is about £33 — much more if there are delays.

LE B&B
THE 1996 edition of *Le B&B* guide (£5.50 from bookshops, or by calling 01491 578803) lists more than 600 inspected places throughout France where B&B charges start at 100F (£13.50) for two per night. Not surprisingly with the franc fort, economical accommodation guides proliferate: *The Chambres d'Hôtes* costs £12 plus £1.65 p&p from Gites de France, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0D13 and lists 6,600 places from £150 for two including breakfast, while the posh *Chambres d'Hôtes de Prestige* (£12 or +09p from the same address) lists 500 châteaux and manors, some with swimming pools, at around 380F (about £50) for two.

ITALIAN COLLECTION
TINY, intimate pensions — the six-bedroom birthplace of Dante's wife for example, in Florence (£35 per person per night), a 15th-century country house outside Urbino (£39), an inn on seclusive Lake Orta (£17) — are all featured in the comprehensive holiday pro-

Jill Crawshaw
with an update
on travel tips
and seasonal
bargains

gramme from the Italian Connection (0171-486 6990), formerly VIGB Travel.

More than 500 self-catering properties include off-the-package-beat destinations such as the Aeolian Islands where two people sharing pay between £249-£453 per apartment in Lipari.

LONG-HAUL VALUE
WITH an expected 20 per cent rise in the cost of aviation fuel later this year, are we coming to the end of the long-haul bargains?

Meanwhile, Kuoni's Limited Editions (01306 740500) offer savings of up to £800 on holidays to the end of June.

A week in Mombasa during May starts at £459 half board, though the average of 13in monthly rainfall could dampen enthusiasm. A week's half board in the Maldives (7in rainfall) costs £539, while the traditionally expensive Mauritius (4in) costs £755. There are similar reductions in Thailand, Jamaica, Malaysia, Bali and Barbados.

FROM CEZANNE TO CHOUROUTE
THEMED routes provide motorists to France with excuses

to meander off the beaten track on voyages of discovery. France Information (0891 244123) will send out free maps, notes and details on subjects that include "In the footsteps of the Painters of Light in Provence" and "La Route Jacques-Cœur" in the Loire Valley, while the Alsace brochure lists the more worldly pleasures of wine, trout, fried carp and... choucroute. Other themed route information is available locally.

FERRY TO THE ISLES
EXPERIENCING Greek life away from the tourist resorts, is the aim of Explore Worldwide's (01252 319448) 16-day Greek Wanderer holiday. Using local ferries, the escorted tour visits Syros, Paros, Naxos, Ios and Santorini, with walks through the countryside and visits to caves and remote beaches. Accommodation is in family-run hotels and tavernas. Price £675 including flights and B&B.

CAMPING CUTS
SUBSTANTIAL cuts have been made by French Country Camping (01923 261311) on all its seven-night camping holidays. Staying at Honfleur in early June for up to six people has been reduced from £369 to £299 in a tent, from £509 to £429 in a mobile home, including the crossings between Portsmouth and Le Havre.

BALLYKISSANGEL COUNTRY

WITH Irish tourism 18 per cent up on last year, and Dublin a top city seller among the trendy young, the chocolate-box charms of the BBC television series *Ballykissangel* are doing a grand selling job for its countryside. Cresta Holidays (0990 561814) is offering two nights self-drive in Co Wicklow, Ballykissangel country, from £125 including the ferry.

Weekends to Cork with two nights' B&B and flights cost £216, while during April, you get four nights' B&B in Limerick for the price of three — £186 including flights.

WILDLIFE WATCHING
ORNITHOLOGIST Andy Jones is leading a two-centre birdwatching tour to Iceland in May, when puffins, gannets



See puffins in Iceland

and hopefully Harlequin Ducks and Barrow's Golden Eye can be spotted. The price of £893 covers flights, all meals, accommodation and excursions, from Discover the World (01737 218800).

THEME FEVER

ACCORDING to Keith Prowse ticket agents, more than 12 million Britons visit major theme parks each year in this country and abroad. The most popular was Disney in Florida, followed by EuroDisney in Paris.

The latest theme park, Legoland Windsor, which opened last week, expects to receive 1.4 million visitors annually.

How easy is it to get information when you ring a tourist office?



A statue of Buddha in Ladakh, India. The author was promised an information pack on Kerala. More than two weeks later he is still waiting for it

Hanging on the telephone

GOVERNMENTS often regard tourist offices as expensive luxuries. Some use them to provide plum overseas postings as political rewards. One of their key roles is to provide information about everything from hotels to long-distance footpaths. How well do they perform? At first glance, premium-rate telephone numbers (49p per minute peak/39p off-peak) may seem a breathtaking cheek. Why should holidaymakers be charged to inquire about what is, after all, essentially promotional material? Experience suggests, however, that the 0891 numbers have relieved pressure on overwhelmed switchboards — and saved callers the frustration of the perpetual engaged tone. Posing as a consumer, I contacted 11 London tourist offices. This is how they responded.

France (0891 244123)

I was aware of complaints that inquirers had been unable to get through until a premium-rate call system was installed — but was surprised that a real person answered within 20 seconds, and warned me how much the call was costing. Could I please have some information on the Vosges? Certainly — did I need accommodation details too? I did. The process took less than a minute. Copious information on the region arrives within five working days, including a coupon to request further details of hotels, gîtes, campsites and other special interests, such as walking.

Spain (0891 669920)

Tried the normal-rate telephone number (0171-499 0901) but a recorded message advised that, while I could hold on and make an individual inquiry, I could not ask for written material. Called the premium-rate number. Recorded voice answered instantly but took at least two minutes to spell out a long list of information available including lists of tour operators and self-catering accommodation — and to explain that I was paying extra so that the tourist office could improve its service. I should wait about ten days for the information to arrive. The call took about two-and-a-half minutes; a good minute longer than was necessary. In fact, a single booklet arrived after five

working days. This provides a good basic guide to the region, but information on hotels is limited to state-run *paradores*.

Italy (0171-408 1254)

After one and a half minutes a recorded message advises of yet another 0891 brochure line and gives what I take to be a warning that the office cannot send out literature and suggests I could fax any urgent inquiry. I dial one for an operator and a charming Italian lady says "no problem". Of course she'll send me information on Apulia. This has probably taken about four minutes but my call has been handled brilliantly. A massive pack arrives in two working days but, while it includes details of spas, mountain holidays, package tour operators and a fat museum guide, the information is general rather than specific.

United States

I call the US Embassy in London where a switchboard operator informs me that there is no longer any tourist office in Britain. "I can only advise you to go to your local bookstore, travel agent or library," she says. But don't individual states have representation here? "No, zero, zilch," she says. The embassy should ensure its staff are better informed. Most individual states are represented in Britain and a good travel agent ought to be able to give you contact numbers. I call the

consumer number for Mississippi, which doubles for Tennessee. I'm through within seconds and an information pack arrives three days later. It gives basic information on places to see and a hotels list.

Australia (0990 561434)

Telephone picked up almost immediately. No premium rate charged. I ask for information on Western Australia — including details of accommodation, car and campervan rental. He asks if I have seen the Australian Tourist Commission's main travel guide. No I haven't. OK — that'll probably take about five working days to arrive. It does — and it's excellent.

India (0171-437 3677)

The first number in the telephone directory (above) is constantly engaged. I eventually get through to the 24-hour information line. I ask for information on Kerala, am promised a pack and asked if I object if my name and address are passed to "other reputable organisations". I do. More than a fortnight has passed and nothing has arrived. And now a recorded message on the information line tells me I have dialled the wrong number, but doesn't tell me the right one.

Greece (0171-734 5997)

A simple touch-tone process allows me to record name, address and request for information on the spectacular monasteries of Meteora and on the Peloponnese. This takes about two minutes at normal local-call rates. Relevant booklets, which contain maps, potter histories and some hotel details, arrive after five days.

Canada (0891 715000)

Tourist office comes under the High Commission in the directory which duplicates

the information in French. Canada has also switched to a premium rate number but, if "travel counsellors" are busy, you use touch tone to leave a message. I ask for a run-down on Ontario's provincial parks. A brochure containing general information on Canada, with hardly any reference to parks, arrives after ten working days. However, the envelope includes a form that I can use to request more specific details: £2.50 for up to five brochures, £3.50 for more.

South Africa (0181-944 6646)

Normal call rate. Answerphone message says information could take seven to ten days to reach me because of "unprecedented demand". I ask for an information pack on Cape Town and the Wine Route. Excellent brochures arrive after two weeks. But hotel prices would have been useful.

Sweden (01476 78811)

Dial number in London directory. Recorded message refers me to another number. Second recorded message asks for name, address and request. I ask for details of campsites in Sweden — with maps. As you might expect, a comprehensive guide arrives within four days, including detailed maps.

Turkey (0171-629 7771)

Two numbers in the directory. Call the first one to be told the information line is the second listed. Nothing in the directory indicates this. Second number engaged for long periods. After a week of sporadic efforts I get through quickly and ask for details of Istanbul hotels. These arrive after two days, but the hotel list does not include prices.

ROGER BRAY

ZURICH from £99

AMSTERDAM from £85

DUBLIN from £69

Great offers whichever way you look at it.

British Midland

Return fares from London Heathrow. Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345-554554

or book on the Internet <http://www.bymidland.com/>

Special fares available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Passenger taxes will apply.

VANCOUVER & CALGARY £439

LONDON - VANCOUVER/CALGARY FOR UNDER 5 PENCE

(PER MILE THAT IS)

AIR CANADA
A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Book in the next few weeks and you can have a penny-watching trip to Canada. Yet choose your own day and time from Air Canada's top-frequency scheduled flights. Until 10th June daily to Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton on weekends. To Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa is only £338 weekends. £309 weekdays. Act before offer ends on April 20. Good for flights until May 24 with all travel completed by May 27. Seven days advanced purchase required. Other conditions apply. Ring 0890 247226 for details.


Australia & New Zealand

New Zealand
So Near, So Both!

Scheduled airlines.
Airpower choice -
East, USA & more.
Airlines tailored to your
wishes.

Swampervan hire,
1st & coach passes,
Accommodation from
to luxury

GUARANTEE:
not be beaten on



TRAVELBAG
FULLY APPOINTED & LICENSED AGENTS
Days Mon-Fri 9am-7pm Sat-Sun 9am-5pm
High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BJ
01420-88724 FAX: 01420-52111
or 0171-457 233

SCOTLAND SPECIALS
from direct 220 collages. 0457256 IRLA107.

HIGHLAND Perthshire, chosen
3 superb S/C C/hd broods
going free. **listing +**
Tel: 0531 691 0439

SEA TROUT/Salmon Fairhead
Border Esks. C/344474
"Up" C. Tel: 012873 804448

ST ANDREWS Beautiful
close old course. Slips 7
June onwards. 01334 473

WEST HIGHLANDS

Country Cottages in Scotland
EXCEPTIONAL holiday properties in the most beautiful areas of Scotland

FREE 4 PAGE LOOK-UP BROCHURE
RING (01328) 864011
QUOTE 5535 (24 Hrs)
 ON WHITE COUNTRY COTTAGES
 IN SCOTLAND, DUFF, 5535,
 FARNHAM, NORFOLK, NR21 9QB.



SPRING BREAKS

REFRESHING
greater
GLASGOW
& CLYDE VALLEY
SHORT BREAKS
880

From **£20** per night
just call **FREEPHONE**
the
HOTLINE
0500 120 120
for your free brochure

SURREY & SUSSEX

SURREY & SUSSEX

ARUNDEL Delightful period cottage
large 3 bed, 4 miles sea, plot 1/2
From £200 pw. 0181 340 0000

SHALFORD Magical Mill Farm
size 4.6, Jul-Aug. £300 pw 1
mils Guildford. 01483 86161

WALES

ABERSOCH Super country cottage
large, Snowdonian sea views
size 6. Extl Aug. 01768 712645

BEAUTIFUL col broch of quality
properties around the 'oldendia'
with coast, low firs, Llyn

provided. Beds welcome free
Quality Cottages, 01346 83877

NORTH PEBBLES superb coastal
path. Luxurious country hotel
large en-suite rooms. Chief
owner. Sits for 2, 284 50pp
DEB's Brochure 01346 872644

SNOWDONIA Victorian Manor
AA*+Rosette. magnificent
peaceful location, superb
cuisine, tempting special breaks
Dolferau Hall, Dolgellau
01343 11 625522

**Wels Country
Cottages**

AN UNRIVALLED choice

in the best areas of Wales.
Free 64 page
colour brochure.
RING (01328) 351341
QUOTE W395 (4/11)

Tel/Fax: 01766 530628.

This is the one

**THE HOLIDAY
OF YOUR DREAMS**

Safe sandy beaches, glorious
sunshine, luxury cottages with
sauna, solarium & swimming
pool. From Cottages to Castles
are Coastal Cottages
"Best in Wales Brochure"
Children & Pets Welcome.
The prices will amaze you!

01437 765765

YORKSHIRE

DALES beautiful renovated stone barns sleep 4 to 18, pet. welcome. Brochure 01729 840390.

GRASSINGTON Cottage sleeps 4, central hlg. ctv. linen, log fire. Avail now 01833 621238

YORK City Centre book now APRIL/MAY offers for DB&B £29.50 or 3 nights £85. 7 nights £185 Exc rates £3 suppl. All facs. C Park. Abbeys Mens Hotel 01904 634866

YORK 8 miles. G/H flat (Granary conversion), 4/5s 4, GCH.

adl owner's house All dates
1993 prices. Q1904 448676.
YORKSHIRE Specialists Choose
from over 600 cottages. 01292
445726 (LRA109)

GAMES

23

CHESS

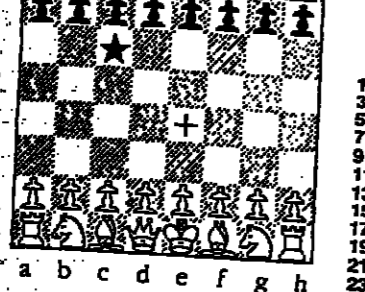
by Raymond Keene

In response to numerous reader requests, I am devoting this article to a recapitulation of the standard modern chess notation, by means of which games and chess problems can be followed.

Chess, unlike almost all other sports, has a perfect medium in its standard, easy-to-use notation for relaying the drama and details of any specific game. Readers who are comparatively new to the game, or who have only learned the older "English Descriptive" notation, will find what follows helpful. It is assumed that the reader already knows how to play chess.

In writing down the moves, each piece is represented by a letter as follows except for the pawns, where no special symbol is used.

N Knight B Bishop
R Rook Q Queen
K King



The squares on the chessboard are described by co-ordinates, consisting of a letter followed by a number (see diagram). For instance, the square marked with a cross is "e4", the square marked with a star is "c6". This follows exactly the same principle as reading a reference on an A-Z street guide or road map. Everybody can pick this up easily. There is no mystery to it at all.

Whenever a piece moves, the initial symbol of that piece appears at the start of the move. For example, White's fourth move in the following game shows that a knight (N) moves to the square d2. When a pawn moves, only the square on which it arrives when the move is completed is mentioned. A perfect example is White's first

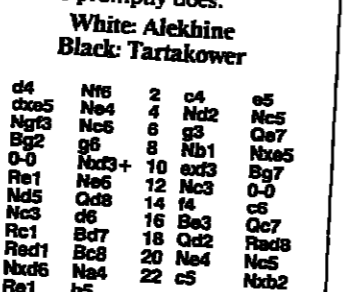
move 1 d4 (white pawn goes to d4) in the game which follows, and Black's second move 1...e5 (black pawn goes to e5).

Captures are denoted by "x". Thus White's third move in the game, 3 dxe5, shows that White's pawn on the d-file captures on e5. Note also the following special symbols:

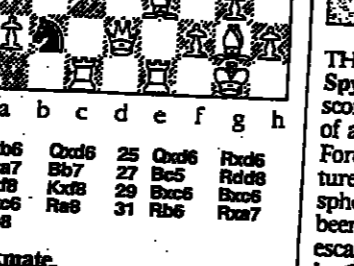
+ Check 1 Good move
!! Excellent move 7 Bad move
?? Blunder

... Black move follows

The following 1932 win by Alekhine in London shows the principles of simplified modern notation perfectly, but an important point to note is White's possibility of the *en passant* capture on move 24, which I have furnished with a diagram. Although Black's pawn on b7 moves directly to b5, White can, on the next move only, avail himself of the opportunity to capture on b6. This Alekhine promptly does.



White: Alekhine
Black: Tartakover



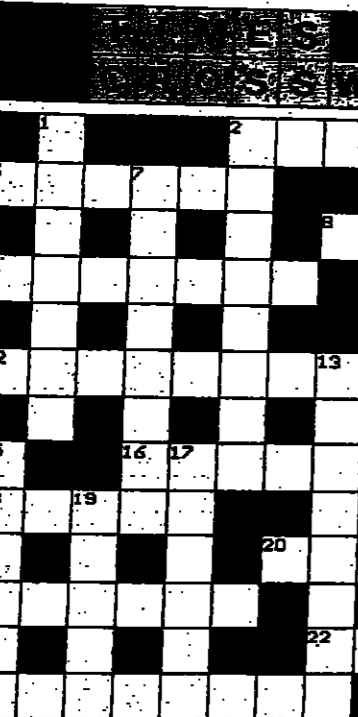
Checkmate.

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Wajkheim - Alekhine, Russia 1908. The black queen has invaded the white position but now looks as if she might have ventured too far. Alekhine, however, proved that this was not the case with his next move. What did he play? Black to play.

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1...Re2



No 749

ACROSS

- 2 Bestowal of favour (8)
- 6 Suit run into (6)
- 8 Textile retailer (6)
- 9 Advance, expand; exploit (7)
- 10 South African province (5)
- 12 Stope coffins (10)
- 16 "What can go wrong, will" principle (7,3)
- 18 Safe port (5)
- 20 In proportion (3,4)
- 21 One from Friendly Islands (6)
- 22 Passive; on one's back (6)
- 23 Where waters taken (eg in Bath) (4,4)

DOWN

- 1 Non-specific (7)
- 2 A little unwell; at a discount (5,3)
- 3 Well; bound (6)
- 4 Data read by computer (5)
- 5 Belt, corset (6)
- 7 Conquer (8)
- 11 Primitive runway (8)
- 13 Epigrammatic maxim (8)
- 14 Progressing lamely; stopping (7)
- 15 Immure; silence (4,2)
- 17 Inequitable (6)
- 19 (Eg snake) poison (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 748

ACROSS: 2 Goose pimples 8 Cynnet 9 Cuckoo 10 Ulna 12 Microbe 14 Skirted 15 Onit 17 Kimono 18 Indent 20 Agricultural
DOWN: 1 Ugly duckling 2 Gown 3 Circuit 4 Spectrum 6 EFTA 7 Exorbitantly 11 Narcotic 13 Decorum 16 Tilt 19 Dare

FROM LIMITED IS NOW OFFERING READERS OF THE TIMES FREE DELIVERY OF THESE ITEMS LISTED BELOW AT STANDARD RETAIL PRICE - OFFER APPLIES UK ONLY.

THE TIMES WORLD ATLAS 9th Comprehensive De Luxe Edition £85. 7th Concise Edition £45. 2nd Family Edition £17.99. Compact Edition £8.99. Mini (Pocket) Edition £5.99. ALSO **The Times World History** (PB) £12.99.
THE TIMES THEMATIC ATLAS The Times Atlas of World History (HB) £40. The Times Atlas of World Geography (HB) £35. The Times Atlas of World History (HB) £35. The Times Atlas of World Geography (HB) £35. The Times Atlas of World History (HB) £35. The Times Atlas of World Geography (HB) £35.

Send cheques with order payable to Adams Ltd 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery to 8 days. Tel: 0181-852 4775 (24hrs) No credit cards.

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (103) Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 10.



The health service will get round to separating them next week
The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by R. Rogers, of Dorking, Surrey

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TREFA

- a. Non-kosher food
- b. A diminished crochet
- c. A Bulgarian coin

TATTIE BOGLE

- a. A velocipede
- b. A scarecrow
- c. A crochet stitch

SYSSITIA

- a. Eating together
- b. Wasting away
- c. Duckweed infestation

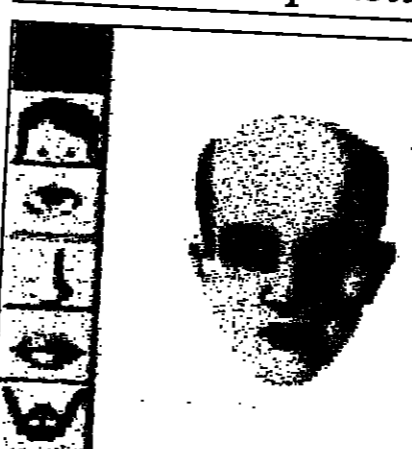
STATANT

- a. A politician
- b. Standing in profile
- c. The soldier ant

Answers on page 17

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



Spycraft: good cloak-and-dagger stuff

THE OPENING sequence of *Spycraft* glides along to a sinister score and all the gloss and gravitas of a multi-million-dollar Harrison Ford thriller. As political adventures go, here is the most atmospheric for a long time. There have been several attempts at espionage escapades, from *Floor 13* to *Crisis in the Kremlin*. Missing from all was some good cloak-and-dagger terror and intrigue. From Activision for dual Dos and Windows 95 formats, *Spycraft* comes on three CD-Roms and connects from the start like *Velcro*.

First you get the opportunity to look out violent scenes; a necessary option since some of the footage is highly graphic. Within seconds you are put to work as special agent Thorn of the CIA. You are trained to use surveillance gadgetry, then set off to track down agency moles and the lethal electric gun which has been stolen.

There are many frightening moments, though some of the puzzles are plain awkward. Another neat touch: your talking personal communications centre sounds a little like a female version of the homicidal computer HAL in Stanley Kubrick's film *2001*, and "she" is on

your side. However, the many names of agents and special missions soon blend as one - Yuri, Grendel, Operation Procat and so on - and there are no points for originality: the crux of the tale centres on the Cold War chestnut, West v East. And, in the light of the latest Channel 4 revelations of Britain's part in the international trade of torture weapons, it is not easy to stomach the sequences in which you can torture your prisoners.

Certain torture would be sitting through most of your suggestions for a dynamic new Ken Russell movie were they ever, god forbid, to reach the silver screen. In third place, scooping a Logitech hand-held, black-and-white scanner, is Helen Davenport from Oxford for *Symphonie Fantastique*, a grim film based on the life and music of Hector Berlioz. The film is set in 1829 in France, and the 26-year-old composer is madly in love with an Irish actress, Harriet Smithson.

"He wishes to create a masterpiece to sweep Harriet off her feet and into his arms," Helen explains.

Unable to achieve this, he takes an opium overdose and dreams. In one, he catches glimpses of Harriet at a ball: "a Bushy Berkeley-style extravagance with Harriet swallowed in frothing oceans of satin and lace". In others he murders Harriet and encounters a witch. He writes *Symphonie Fantastique* and, at its debut performance, sees

the beautiful features of his beloved Harriet "metamorphose into that of the nightmarish witch from his dream". The final Russell-esque touch is that all dream sequences would be mimed to the *Symphonie Fantastique* score.

A hand-held Scanman Color goes to Mr Richard Symonds of Bexleyheath, Kent, for *Dempsey*. *The Dog Opera*, an uplifting tale of a dog born at the wrong time in the wrong place. The voice of Dempsey is provided by Madonna, with her owner played by Cher. Jeremy Irons as Kenneth Baker, Home Secretary, and Brigitte Bardot playing herself.

He writes: "The movie begins with the passing of the Dangerous Dogs Act: Dempsey's days are numbered. She is caught in the park by a policeman, imprisoned and kept in solitary confinement." Her owner arranges a Free Dempsey campaign, which leads to the dog's eventual release. Logitech's top-of-the-range, self-feeding A4 Page-Scan colour scanner goes to our overall winner, Mr

C. Dunn of Edinburgh, for his suffocating treatment of *Purgatory*. He writes: "In the film, a director - perhaps Russell - is making a movie about infamous celebrities who have died and are waiting in purgatory, represented by a white-washed movie set boycotted by striking technicians."

"The director and his actors, in costume as Cleopatra, Rasputin, Wagner, James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Caligula, Byron and others, discuss the production, the characters they play, their relationship with each other and with the director. Each has stories of his extravagances, tyrannical methods of direction and abuses. Wounds open as they tell their tales."

Although drawn to the director, none of the company likes him, and when they realise this they rip apart the white set to reveal instead a blood-red affair from which the director cannot escape. He is either dead or living out his own purgatory.

"And I would like a medium vodka dry Martini - with a slice of lemon peel. Shaken and not stirred, please. I would prefer Russian or Polish vodka." James Bond in Ian Fleming's *Dr No* (1958).

No 3352: The Downy Bear by Mr Lemon

CLUES are normal but each contains two adjacent words surplus to the clue: the initial letters of these in the order presented spell out a theorem. This should enable solvers to locate The Downy Bear, after whom it is named, and to unravel the simple code in which he is disguised. Punctuation at the end of clues, other than 7, refers to the theorem. Points are deemed to be at the centre of squares. Solvers should highlight the coded name in the grid and write the decoded name below it.

ACROSS

- 1 It's the opening in France to any diggings inside tin-miner? (4)
- 4 Care about any big bird flying from Durham perhaps (8)
- 11 Black Emperor Claudius Lucius eats pig that's not very good (5)
- 12 Lord Ian retires after fuss involving Edward (6)
- 13 Elvis eviscerated in morgue outside necropolis perhaps looks like this (8)
- 14 Light always lambent on street and on A-road? (12)
- 16 For a deliberate slice Irwin'll now try a bit of drag with iron (4)
- 18 This 17 grip initially to make eccentric aunt's pigtail? (5)
- 19 Nicola derides fellow's dried flower (7)
- 21 Lifelong marijuana inhaler cured of ruptures (7)
- 22 Take in nervous loose animal to straddle once (5)
- 24 Bloody avenger in Erin ripped out Gael's heart (4)
- 27 Essential support for animal about the middle of April or Nisan - before the hot weather (12)
- 29 Taproot's always lovely grated into meat dish (8)
- 30 Mohammed's son-in-law has agents following girl in Nepal (6)

- 31 Perhaps goat's last to quit hill eating thistles (5)
- 32 He expects they'll demand extravagant miracles (8)
- 33 I abandon country life next Thursday (4)

DOWN

- 1 He's frightened of John Bull poaching a job to smash hitting Evert (12)
- 2 During dust storm in Scotland gunners ignoring notices cause train to crash (6)
- 3 Head saw prince tittle excessively, with quarts of Hebrew liquor in corner (8)
- 4 He composed "Saints" or one rather sentimental version thereof (5)
- 5 I enter race to review Edmund Curll's saucy books (7)
- 6 Runyon forks out nothing for a cony - the skintflint (5)
- 7 Old friends screen entrance from below (4)
- 8 They attack in armed merchant vessel laden with fuel oil mostly (8)
- 9 Before long a doctor will be essential to the Church's vicar (5)
- 10 Admitting negligence school is disciplining teenage drinker, e's twice played truant, (12)
- 15 Chinese literary proverb - a more curious one's found in Pennsylvania; (8)
- 17 Old Sam's out battling without opening bowler noticing, (8)
- 20 Everybody's set on concert music being first class; (7)
- 23 A little Irish nun fails to finish the scriptures (6)
- 24 King's evil exchequer ordered torment (5)
- 25 A new substitute in stone now available for porticos (5)
- 26 Checks current Life Insurers' balance sheet (5)
- 28 A scientific journal never ever gives them prominence? (4)

Solution to 3349: Deregistration by Essen

Doctors struck off / deregistered were at 20A CHALICE, 7D PREDICATING, 26D COIN(CIDE)S (Doctors - "doctored" dice) and 23A (S)MOKER, 31A EMBRASURE and 12D TEN(DR)ON. Different meanings of doctor were included at 1A SEA-SURGEON, 13A FALSIFY, 40A CASTRATE and 22D MENDER.

• The winner is F.D.H. Atkinson, of Claygate, Surrey. The runners up are: Jenny Keene, of London W8, and R.W.C. Cockedge, of Northwood, Middlesex.

• Statistics relating to 1995 crosswords, including personal record, are available to senders of an A4 (220mm x 110mm; from overseas, stamp exempt) to J.E. Green, 31 Bishopric Court, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1TU.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3352

In association with CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

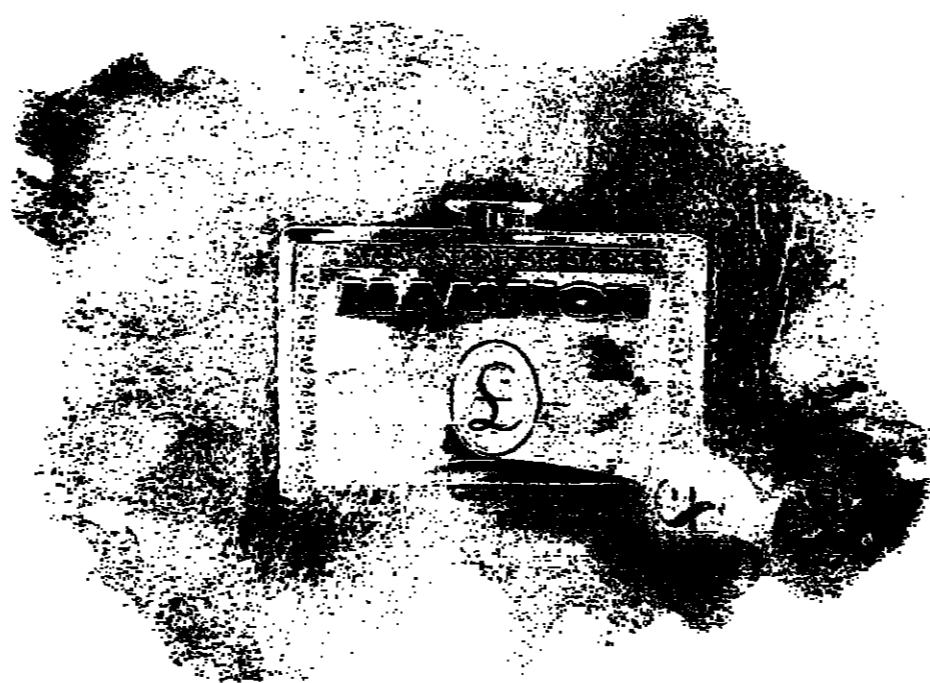
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3352, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, April 18.

The winner will receive: The Cambridge Encyclopedia, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and The Cambridge Guide to Literature, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive The Cambridge Guide to Literature.

Cambridge University Press, the oldest printing and publishing house in the world, issues some 1,500 new publications in over 150 countries each year, encompassing virtually every subject seriously studied in the English-speaking world.

NEW YORK PARIS TOKYO



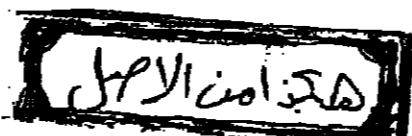
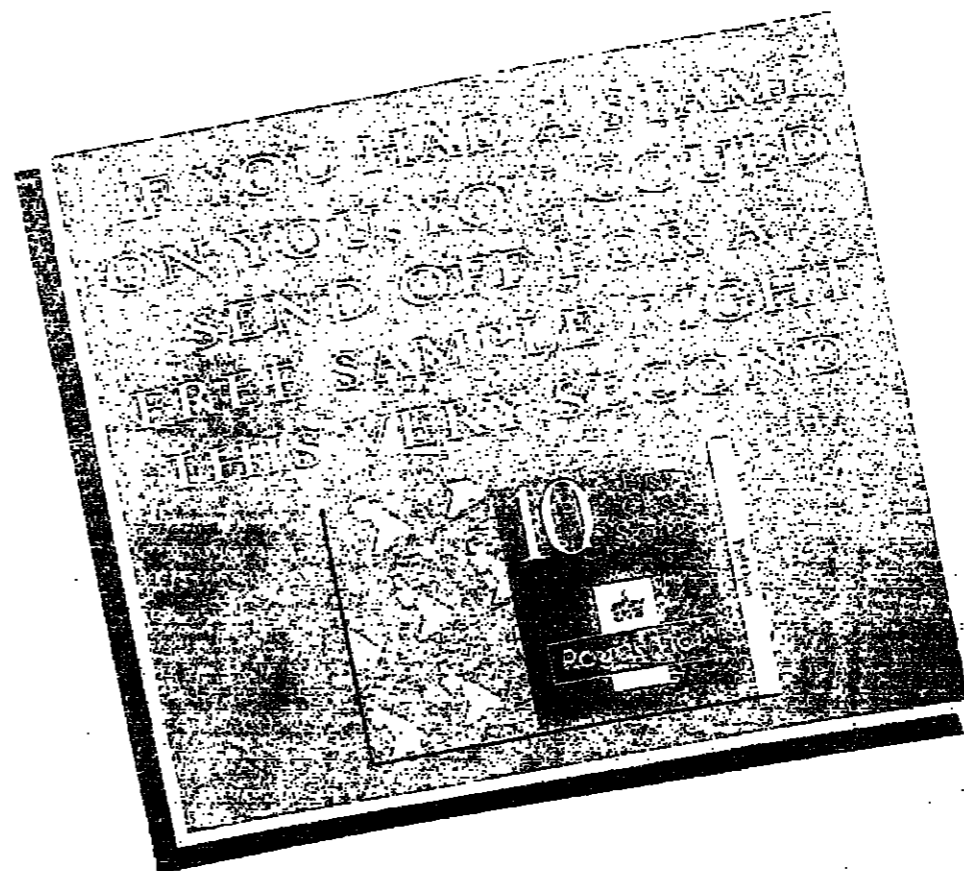
MAMMON

THE ODOURLESS FRAGRANCE

Until...the wearer finds herself in the presence of
gold credit cards. The ensuing chemical reaction
produces an irresistible fragrance, that is...Mammon.

MAMMON. The smell of money.

For a free sample please write to PO Box 682, LONDON EC2A 1DE.





Choosing wackier wheels for the bridal path

Page 3



Armed Services join our driving contest

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company Car Driver 1996

Page 9

SATURDAY APRIL 6 1996

Rock star Chris Rea tells Kevin Eason of the film dream that began in his father's ice-cream shop

Once more, with a crimson passion



Wolfgang von Trips driving the Sharknose Ferrari at the Monaco Grand Prix in 1961, the season in which he was killed at Monza. In distant Middlesbrough, a small boy was captivated by the glamour and the excitement, the drama and the courage

Chris Rea turned up the collar of his blue trench coat against the wind that whipped along the wide beach. The singer, who had his biggest chart success with *The Road to Hell*, was making a film about his passion for Ferrari... but was longing for his Volvo.

We were on the set of Rea's new film, *La Passione*, the story of a young boy who is dumbfounded by the flickering television images of the 1961 Monaco Grand Prix, where a young German aristocrat was tearing around the circuit in a Sharknose Ferrari.

That boy was Rea at the back of his parents' ice-cream shop opposite Albert Park in Middlesbrough. The television picture was black-and-white, but he knew that the Ferrari driven by Count Wolfgang von Trips was red... very red. *La Passione* was ignited that day.

"You are told that this is a Sharknose Ferrari and you are told it is being driven by a German count," he says. "You are told the car is blood red, even though you can't see that, and then later there are only the newspaper pictures... and the legend grows and grows. All I had was a crumpled picture from the *Daily Express* of that Sharknose Ferrari. But that day, the day of the '61 Monaco Grand Prix was when I was hooked and I have been hooked ever since."

Except on this windswept day on the sands of Weston-

super-Mare, Rea had driven a Ferrari F355 for hours along crowded motorways to the West Country so that it could be filmed, but wished he could have travelled in the comfort of his usual transport, a Volvo — "not sure which model" — with its compact disc player, on-board fax and telephone. What would be a dream for most people — driving a £90,000 sports car — had turned into a chore, for this was a day when the lyrics of his hit song had an almost prophetic ring about it: "This ain't no technological freeway. Oh No, this is the road to hell".

The motorways had been jammed with 12-mile tailbacks, and, even when they cleared, a Ferrari moving at even a fraction over the speed limit is a juicy and enjoyable catch for the Boys in Blue.

Rea pines for an age when roads were empty and cars had grace as well as a function, but he is realistic enough to know it is a pointless lament: "There is no fun any more in driving on the roads. The time for cars like these," he says, gazing at the imposing fluted rear of the F355, "is disappearing. There is no place for them in a world where everything is becoming functional and we have no room to move."

That is the reason for the movie, a musical fantasy which allows Rea to illustrate the sort of passion that a young boy develops not just for cars, but one car. In Rea's case, Ferrari, not surprisingly



Rea and his replica Sharknose, so good that Phil Hill, von Trips's partner, was astonished

as the son of an Italian father who talked endlessly of the cars with the Prancing Horse badge and their exploits on the track. The Sharknose embodied everything on that day in Middlesbrough — glamour, excitement, drama, courage — and he wanted it to play a central part in the movie. Except that one did not exist. All the Sharknose cars were destroyed at the end of that 1961 season in which von Trips died and his partner, Phil Hill, won the championship.

So Rea made one. He went to friend Paul Harvey and asked: "Can we do it?" Harvey said they could and they

started scouring Europe for film footage and photographs that could help to bring the Sharknose back to life. Rea says they had only one technical drawing for help and lots of pictures — including one of von Trips's car upside down on the day he died at Monza.

"That helped us to see the construction underneath the car. Trouble was that a lot of the photography in those days was very creative, using lenses that caused a little bit of distortion, so we had a lot of trouble getting the proportions just right."

The V6 Dino engine came from a scrapped Ferrari and,

hundreds of hours later, Rea had his Sharknose, a working replica of the real thing so good that Phil Hill was astonished when he saw it last year.

"He couldn't believe it," says Rea. How good was it to have the former world champion stunned by the replica? "Meeting Phil Hill was like the first time I met Eric Clapton."

If Clapton is God in popular music mythology, that presumably puts Hill somewhere high up on the heavenly grid in motor racing. And a long way from Middlesbrough when Rea was struggling to make his way as a musician

Continued on page 2

WOLFGANG VON TRIPS, THE TRAGIC CAVALIER

IN AN AGE when racing drivers were handsome and gallant, nobody on the track out a more dashing figure than Count Wolfgang von Trips. He was young and aristocratic... and cheerfully clueless as to what was going on under the bonnet of the beasts he was driving.

But that was not his job: he was supposed to take them out on the track and joust with names that have become legends in motor racing, such as Stirling Moss, Jim Clark, Mike Hawthorn and Phil Hill.

He was almost the Michael Schumacher of his day, the fearless German at the wheel of a red Italian Ferrari. But the adage "Live fast, die young" came horribly true in 1961 at Monza. He crashed, losing his own life, his car killing 14 spectators in the crowd. It was an appalling end to a short, but glamorous, career.

Born in 1928 on the family estate near Cologne, von Trips was drawn into Formula One when he caught the eye of Enzo Ferrari, winning the 1,000-kilometre sports cars race in a Porsche RS Spyder at the Nurburgring, the famous racetrack not far from his home.

He was given the fifth Ferrari entry at the 1956 Italian Grand Prix, but the start of his senior career was



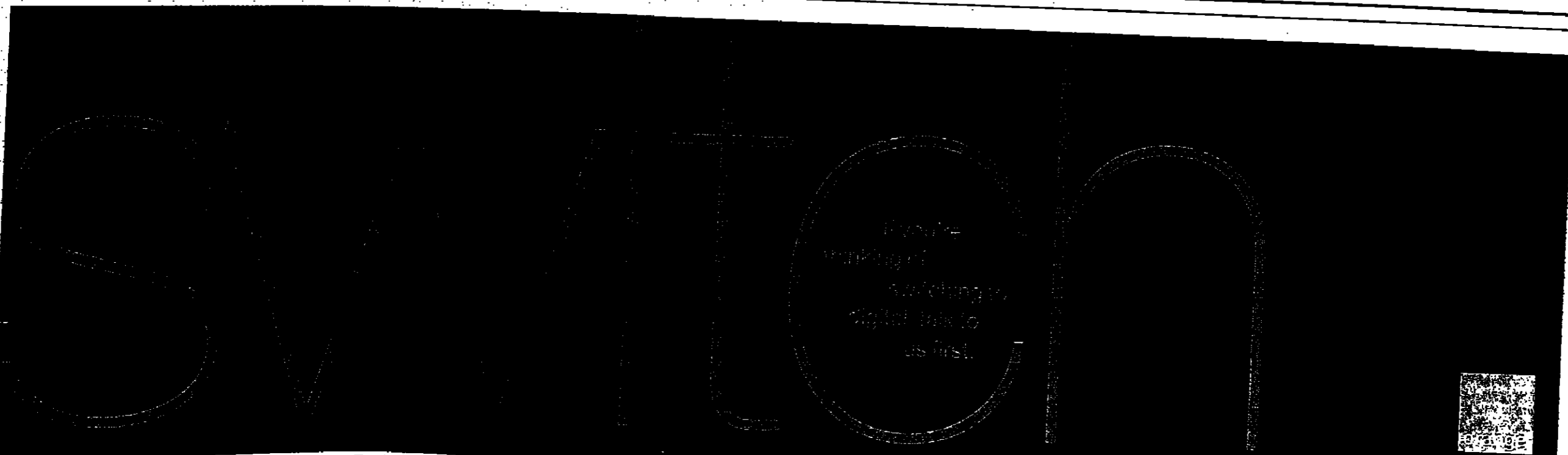
Von Trips: a legend, but for the wrong reason

was less than logical when applied to von Trips's finely-chiselled features, but it seemed to sum up the well of affection for the man.

The apparent clumsiness that had plagued his career was banished in 1961 when Enzo Ferrari gave him and his American partner, Phil Hill, the new T156, nicknamed "Sharknose" because of its wide-flared nostrils that stretched to a long pointed tip. Von Trips powered to victory in the Dutch and British grands prix and was suddenly a champion-in-waiting.

HE WENT to Monza leading Phil Hill in the championship by four points and took pole position. The Sharknose weaved and cut its way through the race until von Trips tried to overtake Jim Clark's Lotus at the famous Parabolica curve.

As von Trips cut in to win the racing line on the bend, the two cars came together, locking wheels to send the Sharknose spinning violently out of control. It mounted the grass banking; von Trips was thrown clear and killed instantly, while the car careered into the crowd. Phil Hill won the championship and von Trips became a legend — but for the wrong reason.



Available from Dixons, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Tandy, Currys, Comet, John Lewis Partnership, Granada, Radio Rentals, Tempo, Norweb, Hutchison Telecom Retail, Escom and other leading high street and independent stockists nationwide.
Call 0800 80 10 80 for full details.

The front of a modern car folds up in an accident . . . unless a rigid lump of steel prevents that happening

● SCOTLAND
M8 Strathclyde. Lane restrictions westbound at junction 15.
A749 Strathclyde. Dalmarnock Bridge Glasgow closed southbound for repairs.
M90 Tayside. Major roadworks at junction 10 with lane closures in both directions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IF YOU have an old car, get it protected, warns the AA. The organisation says that cars registered between five and seven years ago are most likely to be the targets of thieves, simply because new cars have better anti-theft systems, such as alarms and engine immobilisers.

Christmas card list, but in this case I have some sympathy with Mr Norris. The Bill was talked out because, under our membership of the European Union, the legislation would have no effect. There is no existence of an EU document called the External Projections Directive and only by getting this amended can Britain get rid of these murderous devices.

And in case you persist in thinking that bull bars are doing you some good, they are not. The front end of all vehicles is designed to act in a certain way in an accident, reducing the impact on passengers. Indeed, an increasing number of car manufacturers make the presence of front crumple zones a key part of their safety publicity: the front of modern cars simply folds up in an accident... unless of course a rigid lump of steel called a bull bar prevents that happening.

MY REMARKS about the crazy plan to have sponsorship on direction signs brings a response from reader Alan Blackwood, who demonstrates that our own Ministry of Daft Ideas is way behind that of Romania.

He sends a photograph of a set of Romanian traffic lights. The amber light has a Camel logo at the bottom and the Camel name at the top. Interesting, that: Camel wants us to show caution when we smoke, but has resisted advertising on the red light.

George Stevenson and his Porsche 911 Turbo: "It has been off the road for four months in the past year and it's time Porsche admitted it is a rogue model"

Now he has a full international race licence and has become part of the fixture and fittings of the classic car and racing scene, bitten by the same bug that infects other

music stars, such as George Harrison or Nick Mason, drummer with Pink Floyd.

Rea knows that doors open to an international rock star that would be closed to Chris Rea, son of an ice-cream salesman: he has had 18 laps in a Jordan Formula One car — acquitting himself creditably — and raced a BMW touring car in the TOCA

shootout at Donington Park a couple of years ago, side by side with Nigel Mansell.

But illness — which led to six operations last year — changed him. Endless touring and studio work paled and he dictated the storyline for *La Passione* from his hospital bed, asking the nurse to switch his dictaphone on and off. With it came the music for

an album which accompanies the film, and ideas for more films which will follow over the next couple of years.

"I still love motor racing, adore it but I have other things in my life now," he says. "Maybe later in the year I will be at Silverstone with the Caterham: we'll see."

But cars — at least temporarily — have taken a back

north Devon so much trouble and was featured in Cars from Hell last week, but asked for a £2,250 contribution as the vehicle was 15 months old and had done 17,000 miles. "We think this is a fair conclusion to an unhappy story and hope Mrs Davies is now a satisfied customer," a spokesman says.

Until now only Daewoo, Saab, Skoda and Proton published list prices that genuinely reflected the cost of buying a new car. Indeed, Daewoo believes that it was the high-profile advertising campaign of its "What you see is what you pay" policy that forced the rest of the industry to take action.

But there have been other pressures. Ford faced criticism recently for increasing delivery charges and several companies have had to pay hefty fines as trading standards officers clamped down on advertisements which did

The scrapping of separate delivery charges will be welcomed by car dealers. "It has been a bone of contention between dealers and their customers — not a major one, but one more cause for price discussion with the customer," said Alan Pulham of the National Franchised Dealers Association.

"I think it's inevitable that public opinion now decrees we wind the delivery charges into the overall price. Remember, it's the manufacturer who sets these charges, not the dealer."

Paul Bucken of Volkswagen added: "I think the whole industry will have to follow our lead. After all, you can't even buy an electrical appliance these days without the plug being included."

music stars, such as George Harrison or Nick Mason, drummer with Pink Floyd.

Rea knows that doors open to an international rock star that would be closed to Chris Rea, son of an ice-cream salesman: he has had 18 laps in a Jordan Formula One car — acquitting himself creditably — and raced a BMW touring car in the TOCA

shootout at Donington Park a couple of years ago, side by side with Nigel Mansell.

But illness — which led to six operations last year — changed him. Endless touring and studio work paled and he dictated the storyline for *La Passione* from his hospital bed, asking the nurse to switch his dictaphone on and off. With it came the music for

an album which accompanies the film, and ideas for more films which will follow over the next couple of years.


"I still love motor racing, adore it but I have other things in my life now," he says. "Maybe later in the year I will be at Silverstone with the Caerham: we'll see."

But cars — at least temporarily — have taken a back


seat and Ferraris have been replaced in Rea's life by a passion for *La Passione*. Which is why the Sharknose and another replica Ferrari — of the TR61 Le Mans car — also made for the film will probably be sold at the end of shooting, and why there are no Ferraris in the garage at the Rea home, just a Caterham... and that Volvo

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

FLYING ROUND THE WORLD SOLO IN 1930, THE RACING DRIVER THE HON. MRS VICTORIA BUCKLEY SVENTHESEN OF HONG KONG ENDS HOME KONG TO CELEBRATE THE 25th ANNIVERSARY SURVIVE ON AERONAUTICS DAY....




IN SEPTEMBER 1967 ALL TRAFFIC WAS BANNED IN SWEDEN FOR TWO DAYS AS THE COUNTRY SWITCHED TO DRIVING ON THE RIGHT ...




1967 - VOLVO 140G & 1800, SWEDEN 1967

**JAMES BOND CREATOR
IAN FLEMING NAVIGATED
FOR DONALD HEALY
IN THE 1932
ALPINE TRAILS**



**TOYOTA IS SO NAMED BECAUSE
THE NUMBER OF STORIES RECOUNTED
IS LIKE THE LEGEND
JAPANESE IS LIGHTER THAN
THAT NEEDED TO WOTE TOYODA.
THE NAME OF THE FOUNDER**



سنة ١٤١٧

CAR 96



Trotting and soaring: one bride chose an open landau, another couple left by helicopter



Get me to the church in style... this quartet of brides showed the way to do it, and the age of the sleek white limousine may be passing. Morag Preston looks at wackier wheels for the big day



Lift-off and Beetles: military air transport and setting off in Walt Disney's Herbie

Four weddings...

Milkmen have done it in milk floats, ice cream sellers have done it in cream vans, and binmen have done it in dustcarts... just to get to the church on the time.

Brides want to arrive in a style that will be imprinted on the memories of family and guests forever and turn the wedding album into a tribute to the wacky world of wedding motoring. And they are quite happy to spend whatever it takes. According to *You and Your Wedding* magazine, the average cost of wedding wheels is £225.

"People are looking for something a bit different," says Norman Hodgkinson, who has more than 3,000 cars on his books at Carriages Vehicles Agency in Surrey. "Eight years ago the Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow was everybody's choice, but it has had its day. Ten per cent of my customers will go for something wacky. The rest will be pressured into something more conventional once the mother-in-law gets involved."

The return of James Bond in *Goldeneye* excited a flurry of interest in Aston Martin, says Olive Richardson, who runs Cars of Character in Buckinghamshire. "They've probably been to one or two friends' weddings, and don't want the same as they had. It's keeping ahead of the Joneses."

Rod George, who owns a white James Bond-style Aston Martin V8 which he hires out for weddings, says business is booming. "I've already had five bookings for this year."

Couples looking for something other than a chauffeur-driven limousine can choose anything from Pope John II's white Range Rover "Popemobile" in which he toured Britain to the original Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Rod has been offering his services as a wedding chauffeur for more than a year: "I've been a car enthusiast all my life, and am into vintage car racing. The guy I bought the Aston from said he needed to borrow the car for a day to take a bride to church. In the end, I did the job. Now I just do it for fun."

"Often the car is arranged on the quiet. Because it's a he-man car, I turn up with the groom and best man. They're usually fairly nervous, so I make general conversation. We talk about the car, and how the couple met. I always come armed with tissues and a box of paracetamol in case anyone has a headache from the night before."

"I wait for all the dramas when I turn up at the bride's house, but I've never had any trouble fitting dresses into the car. Some brides want to be



Holy wedding bells: the Batmobile, a two-seater Lincoln Continental chassis, contains confetti bombs that go off as the couple leave

strategically late just to keep the other half on tenterhooks. Once I was so early that we met the wrong set of guests at the church, and I had to do a couple of laps of the block. I'm not averse to opening the throttle fairly wide and letting the thing accelerate as fast as possible." (Which, in theory, could be fast, with 160mph available from the big V8.) "The car is decorated with lucky charms and ribbons, but I'm not a suit and peaked-cap merchant. You don't want to be more dressed up than the star of the show. It takes at least three hours to get the car ready. It can be in mint condition when I leave, and after 100 miles it's covered in grime. You want the car as perfect as you can if it's going to appear in photos people will be cherishing."

David Coomber-Chart, 42, owns Bespoke Taylormade, a custom bike builders and restorers, based in Kent, where couples can choose from a fleet of Harley-Davidsons. He says: "We have a cream and yellow 1969 Electra Glide in blue for the groom. The couple can also have a cavalcade of up to six Harleys. The other drivers are

all clients who we have built bikes for — they love it. Costs range from £500 for one bike to £2,500, but we use a white 1960s Cadillac if it's raining. The bikes cost £28,000 each and it takes at least three hours to clean one properly. We don't advertise, or we'd be rushed off our feet."

"For a lot of people, it's their second time around and they've already done the white wedding bit. These people are usually in their thirties, with a lot of money. We've even had a pair wear leathers up the aisle, and one girl in a short skirt, who wasn't half as embarrassed as I was getting her on the bike. We've had a few say they wished they'd known what it was going to be like, and they would've taken a longer route. We put ribbons on the bar. Most people are gobsmacked, but we have had grandmothers in their nineties tell us they used to ride bikes like these all the time."

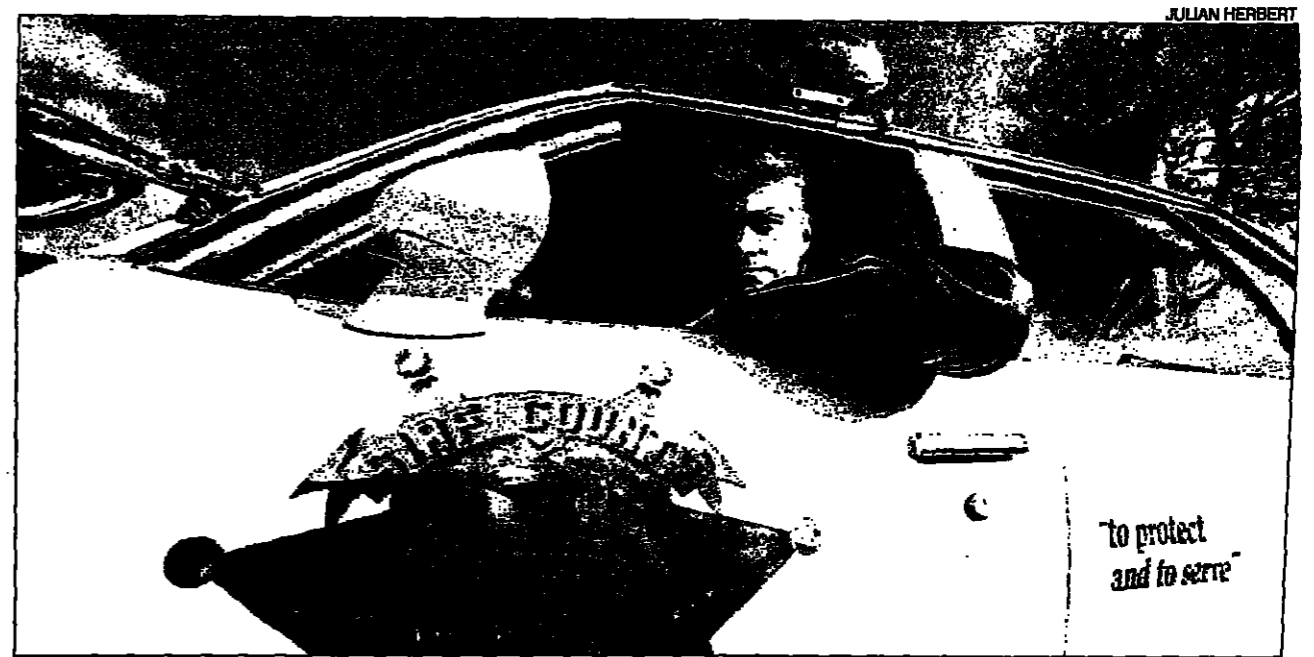
John Restall, 44, a vehicle inspector in Portsmouth, owns a black and white American state police car, which he hires out for weddings: "It has every conceivable extra, from the wire-cage to a siren. I wear a

uniform and shades, carry a genuine .375 Magnum, and speak in an American accent. At the beginning it was terrible — I couldn't go out of the door without being stopped by the police."

Once did a wedding where the groom worked on a farm. The couple were being taken away on a tractor, and the route took them on a motorway. The driver was worried about getting pulled over, when I came whizzing out and told them to pull over. I gave them the third degree and the driver went white. The best man had set it up, and there was a crowd of people waiting round the corner.

"None of the people I do it for are normal and it always turns into quite a farce. My youngest kid lives for the car. It has made him a hero at school."

Mark Perkins, 33, is a property developer whose side line in character cars is taking up an increasing amount of his time. He hires out his Batmobile from the 1960s TV series, *Del Boy's Reliant Robin* and *Mr Bean's Mini* for weddings: "Each year, business gets stronger, and it's crazy in the summer. The Batmobile is a two-seater Lincoln Continental chassis, which the husband-to-be usu-



American connection: "None of the the people I do it for are normal," says John Restall of his US state police car

ally drives or they have a chauffeur dressed up in tights. If Robin goes along, he's the doorman. The car is fitted with content bombs that fly up as you leave, and we play the Batman tune on the stereo. We roar away with the wheels spinning and could reach 100mph if we had to."

"Del Boy's Reliant is a little dated now. It's the sort of car a motor dealer would have gone

for. We try to make it as tacky as we can, with bits and pieces hanging off. I've got it set not to run properly, and dry ice like smoke comes out the back. The mud is only spray paint — really, it's spotlessly clean. It's the car I drive at weekends. I have half a dozen kids hanging out the back screaming their heads off and the police pull us up every time. Mr Bean's car is more popular for

weddings. It's lime green with a black bonnet. "Most people don't want to go straight to the reception. They make you take detours. We've had a few little scrapes in the Batmobile. Someone in another car turned around to look at it and swerved right into a ditch. I took it to Sainsbury's once. Everybody was looking at it, and I reversed into a bollard."

100mph final sprint

UNDER that sombre exterior of the modern hearse often beats a furious and powerful heart. They can be potent machines, using the same chassis and high-performance engines of the luxury saloon ranges on which they are based. Barry Alvin says 20mph is the sedate speed for the average cortege, with red lights approached at a respectful pace.

OTHER undertakers have needed that extra bit of pace though. Police chased a hearse at 100mph down the M1 before apprehending Keith Pateman and Gavin Burr. Their excuse: they were late for a funeral. The hearse, complete with coffin, was being followed closely by a mourners' limousine. The funeral directors said missing their slot at the crematorium would have put the service back a week.

BOTH defendants were given a conditional discharge because of the "exceptional circumstances". Not so lucky was Mark Taylor, who told the court that he had seen the on-up cortege in his mirror and sped up to get out of the way. He was fined £400.

... and a funeral

John Naish looks at the sort of cars you'd only be seen dead in

Few things can be considered a certainty in life, but the vast majority of us will end up being seen dead in a hearse. But even in death, style can be as important as in life.

Barry Alvin has a £71,000 Daimler, which he designed with the high-tech modern mourner in mind. "The vehicle is unique," he says. "It has got a built-in organ, which I can run into a chapel if they haven't got any music there. It's also got a built-in camera for recording the events, and is air-conditioned front and back to keep the windows on to the coffin from steaming up. It's also got a CD and a tape player in case anyone wants a particular song at the chapel."

The undertaker, from Rotherhithe, South London, adds: "People are consumer-aware. For ordinary people, a funeral is the most important event of their lives."

One problem is short-fused city motorists: even funeral corteges fall prey to road rage. "Drivers are either absolutely lovely, or utter pigs. Several times I have nearly been killed by people who have overtaken the cortege and swerved in

behind me. I carry a funeral cask, which has been handed down through my family, and I have to use it to bang drivers' roofs sometimes."

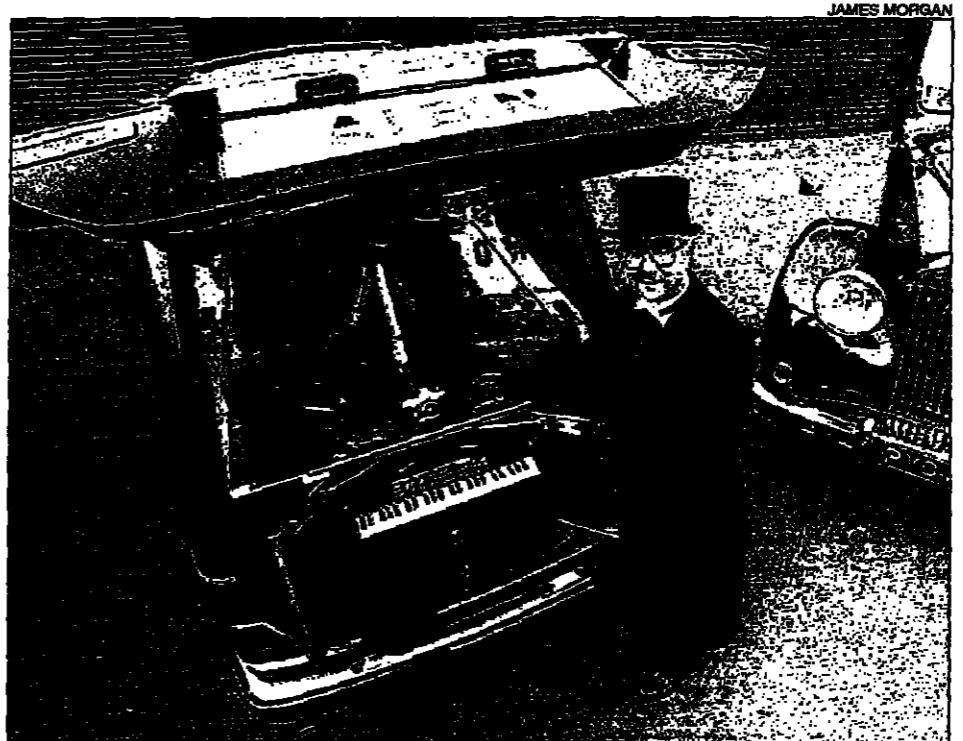
Funeral coshes, Mr Alvin explains, used to be carried by bearers to stop processions being nudged for their corpses by body snatchers. Nowadays, a more contemporary form of theft can still be a problem: "I had a limousine stolen when I was carrying a coffin at a funeral. I heard the engine start up, but I couldn't just drop what I was carrying and run after it."

There is one last special thing about Mr Alvin's new Daimler — its number plate, ALVIN, which, by a bit of nifty typography, appears to spell out ALVIN. Personalised plates are a new trend in undertaking, according to Paul Wilcox, of Wilcox Limousines, who built the Alvin Daimler. "Hearses are the undertaker's shop window, and a lot of firms advertise themselves subtly by having

number plates spelling out their names," he says. Tradition still holds sway: this is one part of the car market where you won't see a Japanese model. "Mid-range hearses are mostly Fords, Vauxhalls or Rovers, and will sell new for about £40,000. The Daimlers normally go for just under £60,000."

"The owners spend more time in them than they do at their desks or in their own private cars, and everyone in the funeral director's town will see the hearse, so they have to be pleasing to the eye. The cars will be in service for ten to 15 years, and will be kept well maintained. A dirty hearse would be bad for custom."

They have to be kept in excellent mechanical condition too, and it is a tribute to their upkeep that the AA has no record of any hearses breaking down — although cheaper vehicles used to transport bodies do come to grief. "It happens more than you would credit," says a spokeswoman.



With the high-tech mourner in mind: Barry Alvin and Daimler with built-in organ

"It's the Princess that I'm most interested in," he says. "It's what I consider to be the traditional hearse, and it is beautiful. If you see a Princess at a funeral, you know that it is a real funeral."

The Essex oil industry fitter trawls around automobiles for parts for his cars, and also collects old copies of undertaker's magazines, such as the

Funeral Service Journal and *Funeral Director and Funeral Service Director* for pictures of old vehicles. But, despite what some may consider to be overwhelming evidence to the contrary, he is quick to stress, "I'm not some morbid weirdo — I just like the cars, though I tend not to go around telling people about it."

Perhaps his passions shows even hearses can be fun: Chris Jones thinks so. He is racing manager of Swaffham Raceway and says hearse racing is now a minor cult. With admirable understatement, he adds: "It's regarded as a bit of a novelty event. Unfortunately hearses are fairly expensive to come by, but the sight of six or so of them is quite amusing. They are remarkably quick."

The badges line every car park, but touring cars are different, say Kevin Eason and Vaughan Freeman

Watch the grid: here be monsters

The badge come straight from the supermarket car park as familiar a part of daily rotating life as the school round the trip to the office.

But beneath the garish paint, these Renaults, Audis, Hondas and Fords are monsters. They are on the grid for this year's Ato Trader RAC Touring Car Championships, one of the most exciting race series in the world which has surged to the forefront of motorsport in this country, challenging Formula One for television viewers and race-track crowd. This year's series should attract 30,000 spectators at each race as well as a BBC audience of 1.2 million. Worldwide, it is thought that more than 30 million people will watch.

It is not difficult to understand why touring cars has captured such enormous interest — and forced manufacturers to spend around £6 million each a year keeping teams on the track. Where Formula One

occupies the rarified atmosphere of multi-million pound budgets and features drivers who live Garbo-like hidden from their admirers, touring cars is rough and ready and within touching distance of its fans. Racing is fantastically close rarely is there the sort of procession from pole position to finish that has often made it seem less like racing and more like the outside lane of the M25. The drivers are Steve McQueen-style roughsters, from John Cleland, the current champion, to new young guns such as Vauxhall team-mate James Thompson, just 22, and John Bintliffe, 30, who joins Audi.

And all the cars on the grid are recognisably the same hatchbacks and saloons we drive every day. Audi will be challenging for the first time

tomorrow with its formidable A4 quattro, while Vauxhall — last year's winning team — swaps from the Cavalier to the Vectra. Just how seriously the company takes the series can be judged by the fact that a single Vectra costs £200,000 to put on the track, a spare engine another £40,000. You can bet that BMW, Ford, Honda, Peugeot, Renault, Volvo, Nissan and Toyota — who fill the rest of the grid — will be writing cheques at about the same rate.

Being there has now become vital to manufacturers anxious to win a glimmer of interest among potential car buyers inundated with images of cars, not just as a means of transport but as a contributor to their lifestyles and label for their personalities.

Carmakers know that suc-



Young guns: James Thompson, left, and John Bintliffe

cess on the track, followed up by racy special editions help fulfil the motto: "Win on Sunday, sell on Monday." Vauxhall has plans to build a lookalike limited edition road-going version of its racing

Vectra, sharing the same outrageous paint job and low-profile wheels and tyres. Performance will not be quite as stunning — like 145mph in a neck-wrenching few seconds — but there will be compensa-

tions: while the race car is stripped bare and even has thinner paint to save weight, the road version will have all sorts of luxuries — like seats.

Cleland is also managing director of the Borders Group of car dealerships, which specialises in Volvos. When Volvo entered touring cars with the S80 estate car, Cleland says the effect was dramatic: "I saw a phenomenal change in the image of Volvo through motorsport. I have been a dealer since 1989, and people started coming in to get their 340 saloon serviced and would start talking about the cars and the races they had watched over the weekend. Volvo always had good cars, but, largely through touring cars, they have now got good cars with an image that has been enhanced by motorsport."

"I can tell you from having stood in the showroom that if the Vectra beats BMW or Honda in motorsport, it is a definite boon for Vauxhall sales, even though the race car doesn't relate to the road car in any way. The bodysheet is basically the same, as is the floorpan and engine block, but that's about it. Even the wind-screen wipers are different, but the motoring public couldn't care less about that."

Stuart Harris, Vauxhall Team marketing manager, adds: "The trick will be to link sales of the Vectra much closer to touring cars. People like to be associated with winners. We would not be involved in the series unless there was a rub-off that benefited our sales." Race Vectras will make star

appearances in Vauxhall High Street showrooms says Harris, to cash in on the "colossal interest" that such cars generate at the track.

"One of the criticisms levelled at cars in this family saloon and company car segment is that they are all the same and a bit bland. The race Vectra addresses that; it gives us cachet," he adds.

You can bet that racing Volvos, Fords, Renaults and the rest will not be far behind in the showrooms, whether they can catch Cleland's Vectra on the track or not.

Though nothing is certain, because this year promises to be one of the hardest fought series in the brief but brilliant history of the touring cars championships.

When life passes in a blur

Alan Copps pins the Audi team as they prepare to repeat their success in Britain

Waiting for Frank Biela to brake at the end of the long straight at Donington Park was nerve-wracking. We appeared to be heading straight for the end of the grandstand, fleetingly I recalled race mechanic Roger King telling me that his pit computer showed a speed of 130mph just here, even with a passenger seat in the car.

Then there was a bump and a series of rapid klunks as Biela hit the brakes and shifted down through the sequential gearbox. Sound effects were all I had to go by. The force was great that my shoulders seemed to burst against the six-point harness, my head, weighted by my crash helmet, jerked forward and my chin hit my chest; by the time I could lift it, we were through the chicane and about to repeat the process before the next corner.

The Audi team with its four-wheel-drive A4 quattros prepared in Germany is this year's most exciting new entrant to the Ato Trader RAC Touring Car Championships, and for 96 will be following its fortunes throughout the season. After years of success on the continent, Biela is bursting to get at the British circuits. He is quietly optimistic, but knows his team has a lot to do to match rivals such as BMW, Renault and last year's winners Vauxhall.

The Audi attacks a 65kg weight penalty because of its four-wheel-drive. In the past other teams, including Ford, have tried 4wd cars but that penalty has proved too great. Audi is convinced that it can be turned to its advantage.

When John Bintliffe, the team's British discovery, was asked to sit

in his touring car racer, he discovered it was a left-hand-drive model. As if learning to live with four-wheel-drive was not enough, he also had to learn the track from the other side of the car. It was one of the most difficult switches he faced after being recruited from the ranks of supporting saloon racers to partner World Cup holder Biela.

The left-hand-drive really means I've had to relearn all the circuits," he says. "The trouble is the weather's been so bad that I've had to run the road car on snow tyres most of the time."

He had been a member of the Audi team for some weeks before he got his first chance to sit in the new season's car at a test session at Vallelunga, Italy, in February. By then he had already been on a training week in St Moritz, meeting and skiing with other Audi drivers who will be taking part in the Italian and German championships, undergoing physical training and learning what the German company would expect from all of them in terms of application and dedication.

Super Touring is a big step up from the supporting races. For Bintliffe it meant the difference between being a self-financed one-man show to being part of a multinational professional team. "It is the first time I've really been able to think about what I am doing as a driver, without working on the car myself or worrying about whether the clutch will last round the track."

When he sat in the A4 for the first time, it was three or four months since he had last sat in a race car, the Fiesta in which he had won last year's Ford Fiesta Challenge. "It was bit like reading a book, but you



How John Bintliffe sees the Audi experience: "How do you start explaining the difference? You have to wait until it's too late before you really learn where to stop"

have to speed read. You take in the general gist, but not the detail. It seemed better to do a few laps at a time and then stop to think about it. "How do you start explaining the difference? It is just such a different car. The first thing I noticed when I rolled out of the pits was the big 'klunk' when I changed gear. The power shifting means you can keep your foot on the floor even in tight corners."

"The brakes are just unreal. Allied to engine braking on all four wheels it's amazing. You have to wait until it's too late before you really learn where to stop."

Whether that is what John was

doing when he took a spectacular roll during practice at Snetterton in Norfolk a month ago is a subject for speculation. He suffered no ill effects and the car was not as badly damaged as at first feared, although it did have to be shipped back to Germany for repair, cutting by even more his time to get familiar with it.

I was the sort of incident that might have caused tension in some teams, but Biela says: "I am very optimistic, but this is a completely new team. We've still got a long way to go, a lot of work to do. I don't know all the circuits

here. I know some, but I also know that others are more twisty and difficult. But that's why I came to England. I wanted a new challenge, and I knew we would face some big competition."

That competition is certain to be headed by the twin Vectras from the Vauxhall team. They are in formidable form, according to Vaughan Freeman, who spent two days with the team as it prepared at Spain's Jarama circuit.

Freeman took a ride with James Thompson, touring car series' youngest winner, and remembers vividly the terrifying detail: "The brakes of the racing Vectra faded at

100mph on a big right-hand curve. Now I was wondering whether that was supposed to happen. I figured it was not. Grim-faced, I wondered idly if James would mind pulling over and let me walk back to the pits. Thompson stuck out a gloved right-hand, his feet danced on the pedals while a busy left hand did everything else, including steer. Then he riddled a dashboard switch that boosted the brakes, seemed satisfied and we took off again. All in a day's work, brakes letting you down like that."

So how different is a touring car to a trip in an ordinary road-going version of the Vectra? A breathless

Freeman says: "The cars look smooth and fast when you watch on television or trackside. Actually, it is a pounding nightmare. All bare metal, hip-crushing seat and lung-squashing harness. The noise is appalling, despite earplugs, the heat sauna-like, and worst of all is the lurching, non-stop jarring."

"Basically, there is no comparison between what Cleland and Thompson will be going through over the next 26 races and what the ordinary Vectra driver would experience on a visit to the shops. Personally, I will settle for a comfy seat and the radio tuned to the afternoon play."

Your chance to get a close-up of the Audi A4

Win a VIP day at Brands Hatch

THE RACING touring car is the ultimate wolf in sheep's clothing. The bodysheet is unmistakable — but just how powerful these beasts are can be seen by two of Car 96's readers, writes Kevin Eason.

Audi is offering to: VIP hospitality for the second round of the touring car series at Brands Hatch on April 21. Our readers will be given Audi sport and will also get Audi sport quartz watches, team jackets, stopwatch and lapel badge. Ten runner-up can win badges and T-shirts. The winners will be shown round Audi's team garage at Brands Hatch where they can note the significant differences between an ordinary Audi A4 and the racer.

An aerodynamic front air-splitter and a rear wing, plus the lower and tougher suspension, gives the Audi an aggressive look — never mind the impressive decals. Inside a bare cockpit, a massiveroll cage protects the driver. Audi's cars will carry a weight penalty to compensate for its four-wheel-drive, unlike the Ford Mondeo which uses a 300 brake horse power '6 to power the front wheels.



Audi A4: German challenger in a fascinating battle

Supercharging or turbocharging is outlawed and revs limited to 8,500rpm. The Audi's four-cylinder, 2-litre produces 297bhp at 8,250rpm, compared to 140bhp at 5,600rpm for the road car, while the drivers crack through a semi-automatic sequential gearbox — pushing the lever backwards and forwards instead of through an H-gate. Cars must also meet strict noise limits and each has a catalytic converter and uses unleaded fuel, like any road-going Renault, Ford, Honda or Toyota.

Other safety measures include immensely strong Kevlar/carbon fibre racing seats, a double fire extinguisher system directed to the engine bay and cockpit, and

six-point safety harnesses instead of seat belts.

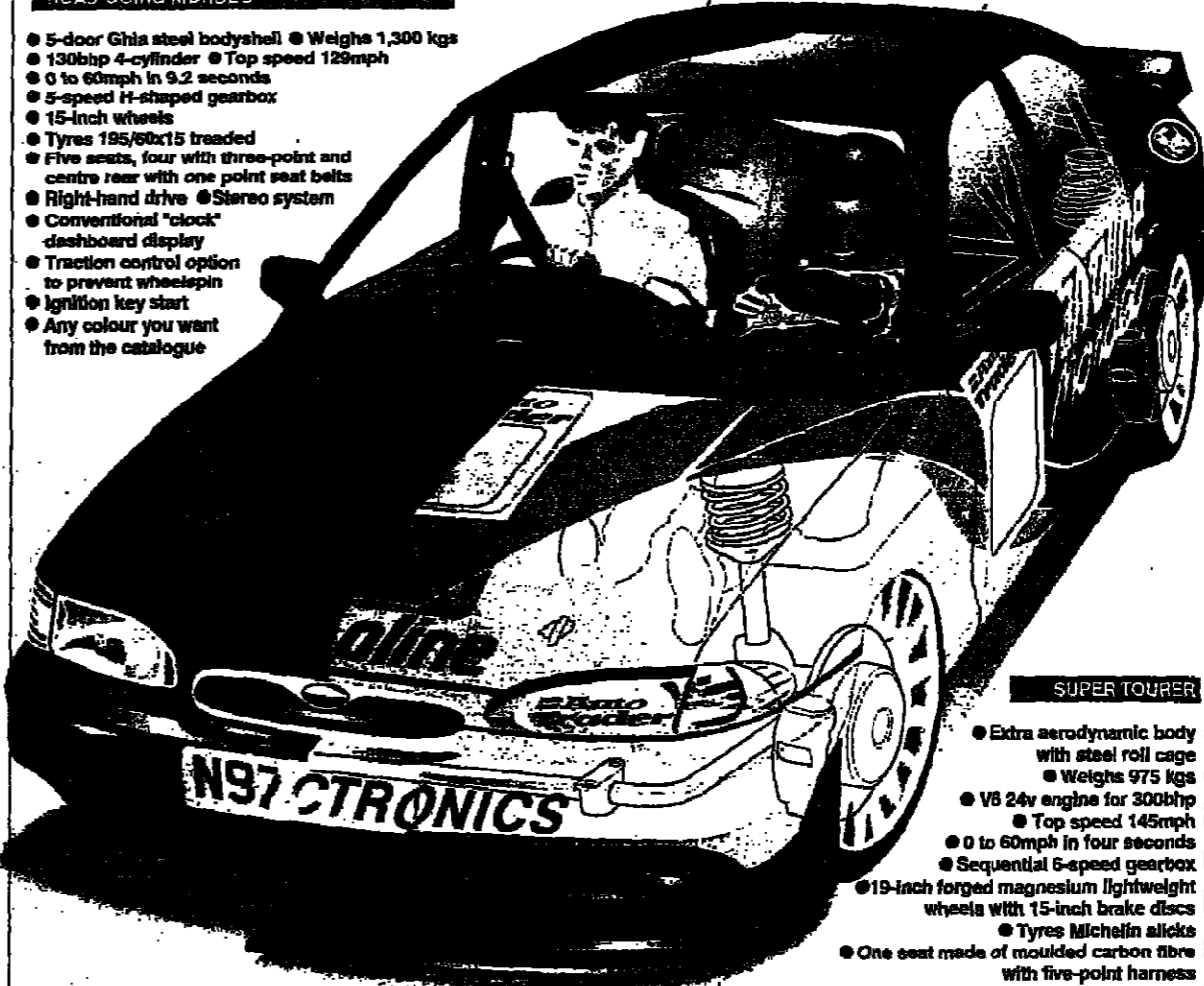
The battle between Audi's 4wd and the conventional front-wheel-drive on the Ford, Renault, Volvos and BMW promises to be fascinating. So, to see the real thing, answer the following three questions and send on a postcard to Audi Sport competition, Car 96, 1, Pennington Street, London EC1 9XN.

1 — Who is the current touring cars champion? 2 — Which is the most successful manufacturer in touring cars? 3 — Name the badge logo which has been applied to all four-wheel-drive Audi cars? Usual competition rules apply. Closing date April 14.

HOW TO TURN A ROAD CAR INTO A RACER

ROAD-GOING MONDEO

- 5-door Ghia steel bodysheet ● Weighs 1,300 kgs
- 120bhp 4-cylinder ● Top speed 128mph
- 0 to 60mph in 9.2 seconds
- 5-speed H-shaped gearbox
- 15-inch wheels
- Tyres 195/50R15 treaded
- Five seats, four with three-point and centre seat with one-point seat belts
- Right-hand drive ● Stereo system
- Conventional 'clock' dashboard display
- Traction control option to prevent wheelspin
- Ignition key start
- Any colour you want from the catalogue



SUPER TOURER

- Extra aerodynamic body with steel roll cage
- Weighs 975 kgs
- V8 24v engine for 300bhp
- Top speed 145mph
- 0 to 60mph in four seconds
- Sequential 6-speed gearbox
- 19-inch forged magnesium lightweight wheels with 15-inch brake discs
- Tyres Michelin slicks
- One seat made of moulded carbon fibre with five-point harness
- 1996 touring left-hand drive
- Car to pits radio communications
- Consumption and engine faults

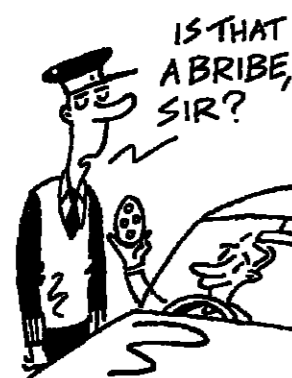
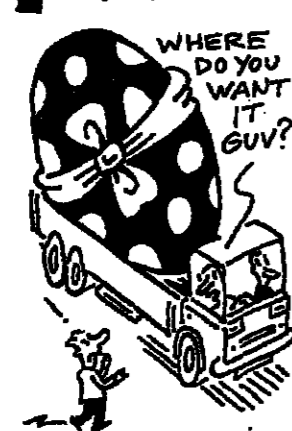
- Liquid crystal dashboard displays plus computer data logger to memorise speeds, fuel consumption and engine faults
- No equipment to aid traction ● Push-button ignition start ● One colour with logos only

DIARY

THE CARS are already revving up for the first rounds of the championship for 1996, with the first races at the Donington Park circuit south of Nottingham, this weekend. Each meeting has two races, the first at 12.30 and the second at around 3.30pm, except at the British Grand Prix, which is over the full race weekend. Check details of individual events as they might change throughout the year. Information can be obtained from the racetracks.

- Donington Park (01332-810048): April 7/8.
- Brands Hatch, Kent (01474-872331): April 20/21.
- Thruxton, Andover, Hampshire (01284-773794): May 4-6.
- Silverstone, Northants (01327-657271): May 26/27.
- Oulton Park, Cheshire (01829-780301): May 26/27.
- Snetterton, Norfolk (01953-888220): June 29/30.
- Brands Hatch: July 12-14.
- Silverstone: July 12-14.
- Knockhill, Dumfries, Scotland (01383-723337): July 26-28.
- Oulton Park: August 10/11.
- Thruxton: August 24-26.
- Donington Park: September 7/8.
- Brands Hatch: September 21/22.

CAR TOONS



Halldane

Sir Denis Thatcher's first car was an Austin 7 costing £5 — that's £1 for each wheel and £1 for the spare. He talks to Andrew Pierce

Naturally, Margaret drove very well

The quiet enigma who spent years at the side of the most powerful woman in Britain had a secret she made him sell his Rolls-Royce when they moved into Number 10 and drive a Ford.

Having avoided the media for years, Sir Denis Thatcher, one of the world's best known consorts, has finally succumbed, agreeing to let his daughter, Carol, write his biography, *Below the Parapet*. It is a fascinating insight into life behind the scenes at Downing Street during the Thatcher years and the way Lady Thatcher juggled the conflicting demands of motherhood and a very demanding career.

But Sir Denis also agreed to talk to *Car 96* about his enjoyment of driving — even though his memory is woolly now on the exact kinds of cars he once enjoyed, particularly slightly "downmarket" models which could not compare with the love of his motoring life, his Rolls-Royce. The self-made millionaire discloses a passion for his Rolls-Royce and laments its passing.

The somewhat retiring Sir Denis, now 80, will be a reluctant guest at his daughter's book launch party next week — and presumably she will have to give him a lift now he is without his own transport.

The launch party will, however, have its consolation. Sir Denis will be fortified by unlimited supplies of his favourite tippie, gin and tonic. Carol has secured, after an initial hiccup, free Gordons Gin for the party in honour of the fact that her octogenarian father has been such a high profile mascot for the company. "And at least I won't have to drive home," Sir Denis commented.

How did you first learn to drive?

In a field. It must have been more than 65 years ago when I was 14. I learnt with a lad who was about my age. I can't tell you what sort of

STEERING COLUMN

vehicle it was. Dad had left some clapped-out old car in a field. We started it, eventually, and turned it round and round.

What was your first car?

An Austin Seven that cost £5. I always said: "A pound for each wheel and one pound for the spare." I cannot really say it was a love affair. The brakes came on by a thread of wire. It was a public menace that should never have been allowed on the road.

What car do you drive now, and why?

Well, it was a Rolls-Royce. It was my second one, but I had to give up driving because of failing eyesight. I had a runaround station wagon Ford when we were at Number 10. It lasted the whole time we were there. Marvellous thing. I never opened the bonnet and never ever knew which side the oil went in. But there was nothing to beat the Rolls. Much better than BMWs and all these yuppie cars.

Do you like driving?

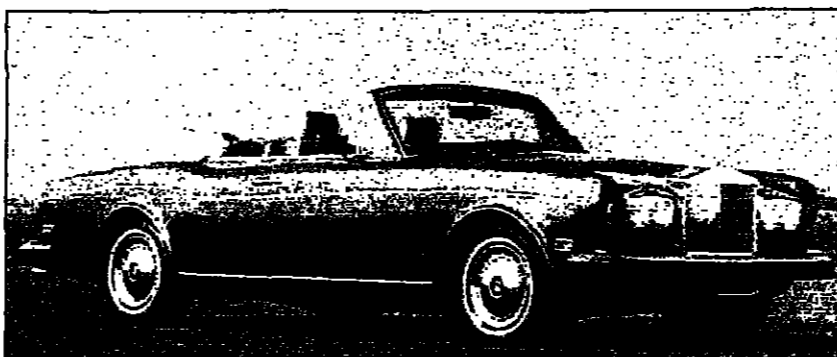
I love it. Never minded the traffic. It's what you have to expect. Margaret used to drive, but it was a long time ago when she was first an MP. Naturally, she drove very well. That goes without saying. Regrettably, I have had to stop because my eyesight is not up to it now: old age. Just like everyone else, I had been filling my licence application and getting the all-clear. No one had ever told me to have an eye test; then I did.

What is your most hated car?

When you get a rogue. We've all had one, no matter how many years you



A pedestrian life: "I had been filling my licence application and getting the all-clear. No one ever told me to have an eye test; then I did."



A dream Rolls-Royce Corniche — "But I don't know how many people could afford it" — and Sir Denis promoting Birmingham's Super Prix



have stuck faithfully to the same model or make. You can suddenly find you have got a rogue. There is nothing which makes one more bad tempered than when you switch on and it will not start.

What is your dream car?

A Rolls-Royce drophead Corniche. The only thing is, I don't know many people who can afford it.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Dreamy driving, especially on motorways, which can be such a bore. It is so easy when you are in the Rolls. It purrs away and you are off in another world of your own.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Their driving. Every driver on the road is bloody awful — except me.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I turned a car over. I was dreaming away, driving a little bit too fast, going into a corner on a road which I did not see coming. I turned it too quickly, slid gently into the ditch... and it turned over. It must have been more than 20 years ago. I was not hurt, but I was cross with myself. I clambered out, cursing my luck, found the nearest telephone box and rang the AA.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

No.

What do you listen to in the car?

Not much if I can help it. It's such a distraction. And when you are a dreamy driver, it's an open invitation to hit something or slide off the road or go to sleep.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Reduce on-street parking — better still, eliminate it altogether. Just drive through London to see for

yourself the problems that it causes. It reduces a three-lane traffic road into two or even one. No wonder there is so much congestion. I can see the problems it causes looking out of the window here at Beauchamp Place. Vehicles are parked on both sides of the road. It should simply be stopped.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

I never notice them. But the one I used to like was for the Rolls-Royce. It was a long time ago and featured a pair of leather gloves on a silver tray. All it had on the tag was R-R. It was a bit snobby and up-market, but I loved it.

GET A BIGGER SHARE FOR JUST £1.67 PER MONTH

How and where the fund managers are investing

Stock market reports and analysis

Real-life financial problems solved in *The Money Clinic*

All the latest on pensions and life assurance savings plans



Statistics on with-profit and unit-linked pension funds

The full details on unit and investment trust investments

Information and reviews on the latest investment options

Unit and investment trust tables covering 1, 3, 5, and 10 year performances of every fund

Plus regular free supplements like *The Practical Guide to Tax-Free Savings*

Every month *What Investment* is packed with everything you need to make really successful investments. And all for only £19.95 a year (saving more than £10 off the annual news-stand cost).

Select the standing order option and not only send no money now, but we'll hold that £19.95 price forever until you decide to stop.*



A SPECIAL NEW SUBSCRIBER BONUS - WORTH £9.99

But that's not all. A copy of the book "How to Read the Financial Pages" - the layman's guide to reading and understanding the financial press - published price £9.99, your FREE subscription bonus.

I wish to subscribe to *What Investment* for only £19.95 (saving £10.05 off the normal annual retail rate) and claim my free copy of "How to Read the Financial Pages"

STANDING ORDERS
Account to be debited
Account No.
Signature(s)
To
Branch
Address
Post Code
(Please complete the name and address section in all cases)
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone

Please debit my:
Access ☐ Visa ☐ Am. Express ☐ Diners ☐
Card No.
Expires End
Signature
Please pay Barclays Bank, Hanscomb Square, London W1 2DB £19.95 for the credit of Charterhouse Communications Ltd Account No 00507381 the sum of £19.95, and £19.95 on the same date each succeeding year until further notice in writing and debit my/our account accordingly.
FOR BANK USE ONLY REF: PAYMENT DATE

Complete the coupon and return to:
What Investment, FREEPOST, 4 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 2BH
From time to time you may receive information from other carefully selected organisations about items that could be of interest. If you would prefer not to receive such information just tick here. ☐
PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY OFFER OPEN TO US ONLY
*Subject to VAT on magazines

ACT NOW

All you have to do to take advantage of this special subscription offer worth more than £20 is fill in and send off the coupon right away. The postage is paid.

WHAT INVESTMENT
The shrewdest investment you'll ever make.

You really can be confident in FRENCH, SPANISH GERMAN or ITALIAN in 3½ weeks.

You get a much warmer response when you travel and command more respect in business, if you speak another language. It also helps greatly with school progress.

But many people are put off learning a language because they fear it takes too long, will be too difficult or blurry, will be boring.

Why? Because traditional methods have often put too much emphasis on pure reading and writing. The common complaint is "I can read a bit of French - but I can't speak it."

Accelerated Learning is a very different method, based on Nobel Prize winning research. You learn the way you learned English - through a unique combination of seeing, hearing and doing.

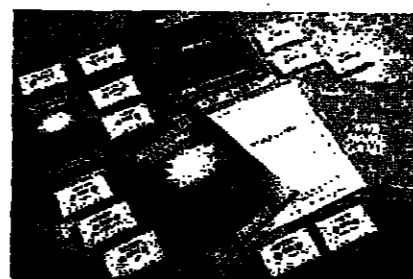
ALL THE WAYS TO LEARN

Physical Learning. By imitating the actions on a unique video and repeating the phrases you see on super titles, you learn key vocabulary quickly and easily. Watching and imitating is how you started to speak as a child.

Auditory Learning. You listen to a series of realistic and intriguing radio plays on 12 cassettes. You become absorbed in the story and motivated to hear what's next. The plays cover all the important situations you'll meet and you absorb vocabulary easily in a natural way.

There are parts you can practise in the car and even a part where the story is repeated to music, a technique that involves the left brain (words & logic) and the right brain (music and creativity). The words become as easy to remember as a song.

Visual Learning. In your course the foreign language has the English text immediately alongside. It helps you absorb the words naturally and easily. Then key phrases are vividly and memorably illustrated through "Memory Maps". When you recall the images, you recall the words.

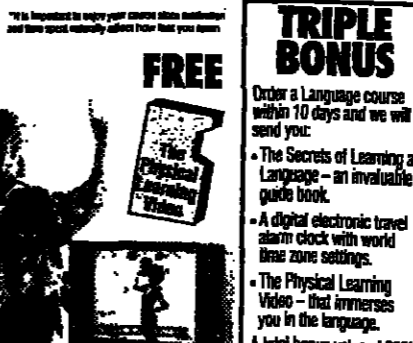


Total Involvement. There are dozens of games and activities to get you using your new language in natural and enjoyable ways. One, the Name Game, unlocks the meaning of thousands of words from the very first day.

It's the unique multi-media combination that engages your whole brain and gets you speaking confidently in such a short time. And fluent communication gives you a wonderful sense of achievement.

PROVE IT TO YOURSELF

We invite you to order with this reassurance. We will not process your cheque or credit card for at least 15 days after we dispatch your course. If you are not completely satisfied that this is the fastest and most enjoyable way to learn a language, simply return the programme and you will have paid nothing. That's how sure we are.



THE METHOD WORKS

Education News says, "It's radically different - there are so many features about it that recommend it to the learner." The Bankers Institute of New Zealand says, "Accelerated Learning is the new competitive weapon."

Mensa says, "It's revolutionary." The Daily Mail reported that "Children using Accelerated Learning are racing ahead." "The results are spectacular."

BBC and ITV news recently reported on a school where ten times more students using Accelerated Learning Courses got top marks compared with those using conventional courses.

Australian TV news reported "Astonishing fluency." "They did two years work in three months."

Hundreds of companies for whom proficiency is vital use Accelerated Learning for language and general training - such as Air UK, Boeing, Boots, Esso, IBM, Kodak, ICI, Rover, Glaxo, Sony, Tesco, Nestle, Lloyds Bank etc.

FLUENCY COMES QUICKLY

Can you really speak well in 3½ weeks? Yes, the record so far was 31 hours of study to pass the Institute of Linguists Preliminary Certificate. Think what you could achieve in a month! Order today on FREEPHONE 0800 505050 (24 hours) or use the coupon below.

French ☐ **Spanish** ☐ **German** ☐ **Italian** ☐

I enclose my preferred method of payment (which will be processed only after I decide to keep my course)
☐ One full payment of £39 (plus £5.50 24HR Delivery) - Total £104.50 OR ☐ An initial deposit of £39.50 (including 24hr Delivery) followed by 3 consecutive monthly payments of £24 each (Total £110.50) Credit Cards Only.

I enclose my cheque for £
VISA/ACCESS card ☐ or debit only ☐
CARD NO: Expiry date:

Mr/Ms/Ms ☐
Address

Post

Signature

SEND TO: ACCELERATED LEARNING SYSTEMS
FREEPOST, AYLESBURY, BUCKS. HP22 4BA
After 14 days for delivery. Please see applicable terms & conditions.

The accelerated learning method

ACCELERATED LEARNING SYSTEMS LTD, 50 Aylesbury Rd., Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5AH Telephone Enquiries (01296) 631177